

Consultations continuing

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said Wednesday Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace process were consulting each other to set a date for holding a coordination meeting in Beirut to adopt a unified Arab decision on the outcome of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations. Mr. Hassan told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Beirut meeting was important for coordinating Arab stands on the peace process. "Jordan was always and is still keen to activate the mechanism of Arab coordination and will work on everything that protects common Arab interests and on strengthening the stands of the Arab parties to the peace process at the negotiating table," he said. At the coordination meeting the Arab parties to the talks will make a general assessment of the process and will particularly focus on the outcome of the 10th round of talks, he said, adding that participants in the meeting will also discuss the outcome of contacts which took place at both the Arab and international levels, especially with co-sponsors of the peace process to arrive at a proper Arab decision.

Volume 17 Number 5387

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 19-20, 1993 SAFR 29-30, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردن تنشر يومياً باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراوي.

Opposition to electoral change fizzling out rather quickly

Reaction of political parties and figures 'weak and confused'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Political parties and figures Wednesday seemed willing to live with the electoral change the government unilaterally introduced Tuesday with many observers characterizing the opposition's reaction to the introduction of the new law of one-person, one-vote as "weak and confused."

Seven leftist parties Wednesday said they will legally contest the constitutionality of the draft temporary election law which His Majesty King Hussein approved Tuesday. But with some signs that the Islamic Action Front (IAF) would not support their possible action, observers say the opposition will be fighting a "losing battle."

The observers say the opposition is aware of that and would not therefore favourably consider boycotting the elections as an expression of its rejection of the changes. The most opposition parties would do is seek legal action against the mechanism through which the changes were introduced and announce their objection to it as undemocratic, they said.

That, however, would be directed towards making only a

public statement. "The opposition knows it cannot reverse the government's decision," said one political activist.

The government amended the Election Law to introduce the one-person, one-vote formula against the will of political parties and without the national dialogue it had said would precede any action on the law. Analysts believe the change would work against large and well-organized political groups.

Before the Election Law was amended, the majority of political parties had threatened to fight the change, with the IAF warning that it would boycott the elections.

The Islamists, the centrists and the leftists. The centrists, who mainly represent tribal and strongly pro-regime figures, usually support whatever policies the King adopts. So if the Islamists chose not to challenge the new temporary election law, one analyst said, opposition would come from the leftists only.

And on its own, even leftist former deputies and politicians opposed to the change but the gathering failed to agree on a line of action. The only conclusion one could "sense" from (that) meeting is that the IAF would not boycott the elections," said one former deputy who attended the meeting (see related story).

The Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party, the Jordan Peo-

ple's Democratic Party, the Progressive Democratic Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Democratic Socialist Party, the Arab Democratic Party and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party held a similar meeting Wednesday and issued a statement rejecting the change as undemocratic and in "violation of the spirit of the Constitution."

These parties are planning to hold another meeting next week to further study their positions, sources said.

There are three major political forces in Jordan who might oppose or support the new law: The Islamists, the centrists and the leftists. The centrists, who mainly represent tribal and strongly pro-regime figures, usually support whatever policies the King adopts. So if the Islamists chose not to challenge the new temporary election law, one analyst said, opposition would come from the leftists only.

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Islamists thrown off balance by King's speech

'Moderates' see positive tone; 'hawks' get another message

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF), which had led an upsurge campaign against introducing a one-person, one-vote election formula into Jordan's electoral process during the past few weeks, appears to have been thrown off balance by His Majesty King Hussein's address in which he announced the change, forcing an internal struggle between the "moderates" and the "hawks" inside the group.

According to IAF sources, the group has found itself divided over the interpretation of at least one passage in Tuesday's speech in which the King made a direct reference to the front and called on it to live up to its name.

In that passage, the King said: "I am concerned with safeguarding the unity of the country; I am also most concerned about our sons, some of whom have chosen to belong to a front, which they have named, the Islamic Front. What I wish for them and from them is that they truly practise their historic responsibilities in striving to live up to the name they have chosen."

While this and other state-

ments in the speech led the "moderates" among the IAF leaders to believe that the King was directly appealing to the IAF not to boycott the Nov. 8 elections and assuring the group of his recognition of its political weight, but the "hawks" interpreted it as a direct threat aimed at making them fall in line. The more extremist Islamists maintain that this passage cannot be seen positively when it says, "which they have named," rather than directly naming the group.

There are two interpretations of this line among the leaders," an IAF source told the Jordan Times Wednesday. "The differing opinions are obviously bornes out of differing psychological and political predispositions" among the Islamist leaders.

But it was not only this particular line that instantly split the IAF camp into "moderates" and "hawks" over what the speech meant. There were other, equally important, points of difference over various statements made in the speech.

For instance, the King made a reference to his 40 years on the throne in the context of saying that there were good and bad times during this

period but that Jordan has been able to ride out all storms during this period.

The "moderates" in the IAF believed that this reference by the King underlined the years of harmony with the Islamists and placed responsibility on them to safeguard Jordan which the King said, in his speech, was under outside pressures. To prove their point, they refer to the quote in which the King said that "failure, God forbid, does not only mean the collapse of all our hopes and aspirations, but will also subject this nation to disintegration."

The moderates say that the King was careful to point out that he was not taking sides with one party or another when he said: "I would like to emphasise that my government and I, as a father and a brother to each citizen, that we do not support one side over another."

The "hawks," on the other hand, maintain that the government adopts a line of political thought that is fundamentally different from theirs and that only the government line can be served by the speech.

For instance, the King made a reference to his 40 years on the throne in the context of saying that there were good and bad times during this

won a bloc of 23 seats in the 11th Parliament, stands to lose a good margin of their popular base with the adoption of one-person, one-vote. Analysts believe that independent and centrist candidates stand to gain from the change and that the IAF would probably win 17 seats in the House.

The "moderates" in the IAF respond by admitting that questions can be raised about the government's intentions but add that a confrontation with the government is different from one with the King, who, in his Tuesday speech, pledged to personally "ensure the integrity and honesty of the elections that will be a model for the trust that unites us."

On mentioning the IAF by name in his address, the "moderates" also thought that the King, "by naming us, acknowledged that we are Jordan's largest and most organised party. But at the same time he also expects us to behave in a mature way and participate in building the nation."

An IAF "moderate" also cited another paragraph in the King's speech which was taken to be positive. That paragraph said the following: "I call upon my brothers to appreciate the

(Continued on page 4)

Minority votes may scramble strategies with introduction of change into elections

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The one-person, one-vote system introduced into the electoral system has brought in countless new elements into play ahead of the Nov. 8 elections, scrambling the strategies of many.

One such element, politicians and analysts argue, is what could turn out to be an unprecedented lobbying for Christian votes by their co-religionists as well as "moderate" or "liberal" Muslims and vice-versa.

The scenario, along this line of thinking, unfolds like this:

While the eight seats reserved for Christians in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament will be filled by Christian candidates who get the highest number of votes among the Christian candidates in their respective constituencies. The number of votes that Muslim candidates garner will, in theory at least, have no relation whatsoever to the Christian candidates.

As such, the Christian community is assured of the eight seats in the House, even if Christian candidates get the lowest number of votes when

compared with Muslim candidates.

This opens the door for Muslim candidates to campaign for Christian votes with an argument that common interests will be further served if they vote for "moderate" or "liberal" Muslims and seek to dilute the strength of the Islamists.

This adds to what is seen as the Christian community's quest to establish their clout on the scene in proportion to the seats allocated to Christians in the House.

The eight Christian seats represent 10 per cent of the House, but it is a known fact that their strength in the overall population or the eligible electorate is below five per cent (no definite figures are available on the number of registered Christian voters).

The three seats reserved for the Circassians and Chechens could not be classified along the same lines as the Christians because the Circassians and Chechens are Muslim and the argument of cutting through Islamist strength is unlikely to work with them since some of them are already seen as supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Furthermore, it is said

that the Islamists will

not be able to influence the

Christian community in the

Middle East News

Jiang says no banned cargo aboard ship

PEKING (Agencies) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin assured visiting U.S. congressmen Wednesday that a Chinese ship at the centre of a row with Washington is not carrying banned ingredients for chemical weapons.

"(Jiang) said that there are no poisonous weapon chemicals on the ship," Congressman Sam Gibbons, head of the U.S. delegation, told a news conference. "U.S. officials said Mr. Jiang's statement referred explicitly to the materials for chemical weapons that the United States has charged form part of the cargo of the ship Yinhe."

The Yinhe, now being shadowed by U.S. Navy ships, has been stranded in the Gulf for two weeks after a dispute erupted over its cargo, part of which is headed for Iran.

Washington has said it believes the Iran-bound containers hold chemicals such as thioglycol and thionyl chloride that can be used to build chemical weapons. It insists on the right to check the cargo.

China has rejected the charge, and offered "third party" inspection of the cargo after it is unloaded at a regional port. Peking said last Friday that Washington had turned down this offer.

The row has focused attention on China's arms sales policies, which some U.S. politicians say are contributing to the proliferation of weapons in unstable regions.

China says it abides by relevant international agreements in its arms sales and some Chinese officials have accused the United States of trying to deflect attention from its own arms exports.

Gulf shipping sources said the Yinhe's captain asked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for permission to enter one of its ports on Tuesday after anchoring just outside the country's territorial waters on Monday.

UAE authorities are also demanding to check the ship's cargo, the shipping sources said.

The shipping sources said the Yinhe, which was banned from docking at the UAE's Rashid port last week, is carrying 2,500

containers, including some 560 containers due to be off-loaded in Dubai.

Some of the 560 containers were to be transhipped to Iran from Dubai, which handles about 80 per cent of Iran's cargoes.

"In order to solve the problem and clarify the facts at an early date, the Chinese government has suggested that the relevant goods on the Yinhe cargo ship can be examined in the port of Dubai of the UAE," a foreign ministry spokeswoman said Wednesday.

The spokeswoman, quoted by AP, declined to say who might be allowed to supervise the examination.

U.S. officials said Mr. Jiang's statement to the congressmen Wednesday referred explicitly to "precursors" for chemical weapons that the United States has charged form part of the Yinhe's cargo.

Chinese diplomats met UAE officials Wednesday to discuss the fate of the ship.

"We are trying to have the cargo unloaded. We don't know what will be. We are ready to have the containers inspected," a senior Chinese diplomat told Reuters.

The diplomat, who did not want to be named, was speaking after the meeting at the UAE Foreign Ministry in Abu Dhabi. He did not elaborate or say what the outcome of the meeting was.

UAE officials were not immediately available to comment.

Shipping executives and diplomats said that the UAE government had not yet taken a decision on the fate of the ship but that it was unlikely to let it into a UAE port.

"The general attitude is that it will not be allowed in. Contacts are still going on," one shipping executive said.

The diplomats said their understanding was that the ship would eventually have to sail back to China with its cargo.

The diplomats said the UAE did not want to be caught in the middle of the row between Washington and Peking.



CROWD 'CONTROL': Egyptian security forces disperse a crowd of onlookers at the American University of Cairo Wednesday after an attack by militants on Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfie in central Cairo which killed four people (AFP photo)

Fighting spurs Sudanese exodus

By George Mulala
The Associated Press

KAYA, Sudan — Remo Monya is the last holdout in this dusty southern town, deserted by other residents as Sudan's 10-year-old civil war grows near.

"I am not leaving — maybe when I am dead," said the 60-year-old farmer, who stayed behind in rebel-held Kaya while the rest of the villagers fled recent government bombing. "My property, my goats, my crops are here."

Homes on Kaya's main street bore signs that Mr. Monya's neighbours had left hurriedly. Doors to most houses stood ajar, and furniture and grain could be seen strewn about inside and at the doorways.

The only people in sight besides Mr. Monya were a few rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) who stood guard with AK-47 assault rifles.

Up to one million people in this country of 26 million have died from fighting or war-induced famine since 1983, when rebels seeking more autonomy and economic development for the Christian and animist south

rose up against the Muslim-dominated government.

Aid officials estimate that more than two million people have been displaced with more than 300,000 taking refuge in Kenya, Zaire and Uganda.

Since government planes began dropping bombs near Kaya last month, more than 30,000 have fled to Uganda, less than 1½ kilometres south. The New Sudan Council of Churches estimates that 70,000 more from other southern towns have gone west to Zaire or elsewhere in southern Sudan.

Those who fled Kaya are living in two U.N. refugee camps at Koboko, Uganda, 15 kilometres from the Sudanese border. Among the new inhabitants of Koboko, there was little hope of returning home anytime soon.

"We will not go back to those towns," said Anglican Bishop Solomon Seme, who had moved to Kaya early this month after being displaced by fighting from his hometown at Yei, 45 kilometres north. "We are tired of being bombed."

Hunger, and not only bombs and bullets, threatens those like Monya who remain in southern Sudan.

Fighting has severely hampered programmes to bring food and other aid to an estimated 1.5 million needy in southern Sudan since the end of March, despite an agreement by the government and rebels to let relief workers into the area.

The bombing now threatens to cut off one of two remaining roads into southern Sudan used by relief agencies. The bulk of the food goes further inland and is delivered by air.

"If nobody agrees that this road should be used as a corridor for relief, it will be cut off," said Jean-Luc Siblot, of the U.N. World Food Programme.

The government bombing campaign followed a lull in fighting that had quieted the region during short-lived peace talks in the spring. But when the talks failed to resume in June, the government went on the offensive again.

Over the first eight years of fighting, the SPLA won most of Sudan's south. But in the past two years, the government has retaken most of the region, aided by a split within the guerrilla movement that has pitted factions against each other in heavy fighting.

U.S. Navy reports signs of Iraq port restorations

DUBAI (R) — The United States navy says Iraq's release of merchant ships, stranded in the port of Basra for more than a decade, could signal the beginning of a restoration of Iraqi ports.

A statement by the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in the Gulf said six empty merchant ships had been towed from Basra to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) since late July.

"This renewed activity could signal the beginning of harbour restoration in Iraq which will eventually lead to a resumption of active shipping into and from that country," it added.

Oil industry sources said they thought the clearing of Basra, Iraq's main oil export terminal, was not related to a limited resumption of Iraqi oil sales currently under discussion between Baghdad and the United Nations.

The U.S. Navy statement said the pace of inspecting and boarding ships by multinational navy vessels enforcing a U.S. trade embargo on Iraq since the Gulf war over Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait had been slowing down.

"It had been approximately 18 months since a ship had been intercepted and boarded in the Arabian Gulf when Gallery inspected the merchant vessel Horizon on July 24," the statement added.

It said Horizon, whose flag is unknown, was one of the six ships towed from Basra to Dubai.

Shipping sources in the Gulf said Iraq had a few months ago to shipowners they could collect their vessels from Basra.

The ships, some of which had been in Basra since before the outbreak of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, were towed into the Gulf through Shatt Al Arab, the waterway jointly controlled by Baghdad and Tehran, the source said.

Irqi officials said in March they had started a three-year programme to dredge Shatt Al Arab, the only access for ships to Basra port.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan court quashes death sentences

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's supreme court has quashed death sentences imposed on four men found guilty almost a year ago of waging war against the state, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Wednesday. The four, who were also convicted of possessing arms, were sentenced to death by hanging on Sept. 26 last year in the remote town of Al Dairen in the western state of Darfur. They were said to be Mohammad Barsham, Bashir Rahma, Al Hadi Al Naeem and Zanoon Al Tigani. The supreme court said the four had returned from areas controlled by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in response to a general amnesty granted by head of state Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir to those taking up arms against the state. The court said the four men returned voluntarily from rebel-held territory and should not be penalised. In early September last year the Al Dairen court acquitted Did Ahmad Al Hussein, a former deputy prime minister and interior minister who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for communicating and coordinating with the SPLA. It said Mr. Hussein was convicted unjustly.

Missing exile returns to S. Lebanon camp

MARJ AL-ZOHOUR, Lebanon (R) — A Palestinian exile who fled a camp in South Lebanon in June returned Wednesday three days after 395 exiles accepted an Israeli offer to return home in stages. Abdul Fatah Al Oueisi told reporters at the tent camp he left because he was depressed and frustrated after Israel expelled his family from the occupied territories to Jordan. The 37-year-old history professor from Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank said he spent the past two months wandering in the wilderness inside Lebanon. But Lebanese sources said he went to Jordan and saw his family. The Palestinians, who were expelled by Israel on Dec. 17, ended eight months of defiance of Sunday by accepting an Israeli offer to take back 187 in September. Israel said it would take back the rest in December.

Iraq pledges to treat jailed Westerners well

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Iraq's government, hoping to reverse a trend of deteriorating relations with Sweden, has pledged fair treatment of three jailed Swedes, the news agency TT reported Tuesday. In a letter to the Swedish parliament, Iraqi Parliament Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh said: "The Iraqi government wants the good treatment to continue in line with Arab moral standards," it said. Christer Stromgren, Stefan Wihlborg and Leif Westberg are serving a seven-year sentence in a prison outside Baghdad for illegally entering Iraq. The engineers accidentally strayed over the border from Kuwait in September 1992. Also last year two Britons, who crossed the border, were charged with espionage and sentenced to seven and 10 years in prison. "We wish that their (the Swedes') case is decided along with prisoners from other countries in accordance with international standards and practice," the Iraqi official was quoted as saying. The letter was in reply to an appeal made by the Swedish parliament last June for the release of the Swedes.

Siamese twins die before separation in UAE

DUBAI (AFP) — Siamese twin girls born in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with one heart and one liver died after four days in intensive care unit, the hospital said Wednesday. "The hospital would have attempted to separate the babies at the chest and abdomen but had to wait till their condition stabilised," said Dr. Andre Assadourian, director of Al Wasi Hospital where they died Tuesday night. The twins, weighing 1.65 kilograms, were born prematurely after 27 weeks to an Omani woman Saturday.

Bulgaria to supply Turkey with water

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria will help its drought-stricken neighbour Turkey irrigate rice fields in return for 1.5 million in goods and services, the Bulgarian government said on Tuesday. A government statement said Bulgaria would release 40 million cubic metres of water for the Zhrebchevo dam in southern Bulgaria to try to ease the drought in Turkey. According to the statement, the water supply to Turkey would not harm irrigation of the Bulgarian regions around the dam. Officials said electricity would probably be included among the \$4.5 million worth of goods and services that Bulgaria will receive in return from Turkey. The list of goods and services will be negotiated by the two countries in three weeks' time.

Traffic silence' in Sudan on Monday

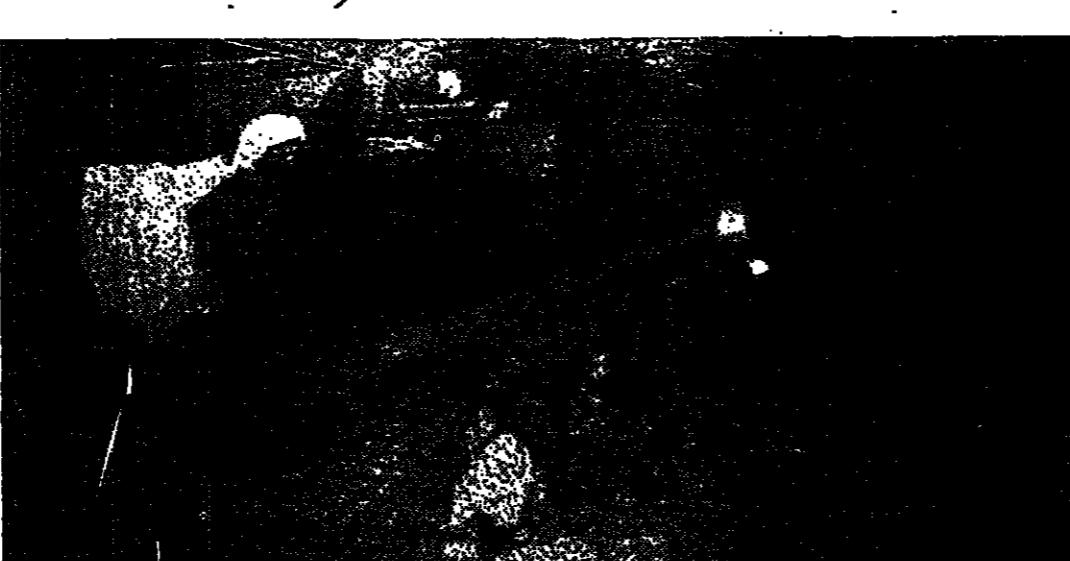
KHARTOUM (R) — All traffic in the western Sudanese state of Darfur will come to a halt at five a.m. on Mondays and remain stationary for 24 hours, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Wednesday. Traffic will halt under a Monday no-drive rule decreed by state Governor Colonel Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohamad Khar to cut fuel consumption. All public and private sector vehicles in the state will have to stop where they are at five a.m. every Monday and stay there for 24 hours. Only vehicles serving vital utilities will be exempt. A committee set up to monitor implementation of the measure, nicknamed "the traffic silence," has ruled that it will only apply to the two biggest towns in the state, Al Fashir and Nyala, when the measure takes effect for the first time next Monday. Sudan is facing a severe fuel shortage because of lack of hard currency to import fuel.

Saudi prince fractures skull in accident

MARSEILLE (AP) — A 15-year-old great-nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia fractured his skull in a jet-ski accident on the French Riviera. Prince Khalid Ben Walid Ben Talal was scheduled to undergo surgery Wednesday in the neurosurgical ward in Marseille's Timone hospital. Hospital officials described his condition as "proper." The prince suffered a bad fall from a jet-ski travelling at high speed Tuesday evening near the chic anchored. Crew members of the yacht, following in a dinghy, provided first aid. The prince suffered a skull fracture, but was conscious. He was X-rayed at a hospital in Saint-Tropez, then flown by helicopter to Marseille, about 120 kilometres east. Other details on his condition were not available. The youth's father, King Fahd's nephew Prince Walid, was at the hospital, officials said.

Thieves plunder Egypt's tombs; dealers sell treasures worldwide

By Lachlan Carmichael and Mohammad Dakhakhny
Agence France Presse



Gaber Mahmoud, a villager from Qurna in Upper Egypt, and his family live in an ancient Pharaonic tomb (AFP photo)

They finally entered her home this month and began digging in search of the mystery tunnellers, but Ms. Nagdy said: "I still hear the voices after they (the officials) finish work every day."

Villagers are the chief suspects. One Qurna villager is currently serving a three-year jail sentence for having dug through the bottom of his home and unearthed some artefacts out of Egypt.

"They married the middleman," Abdul Rahman Abo Zaid, the Luxor city council chief, told AFP.

Egyptian collectors and dealers were until recently allowed to sell to foreigners, but since a law passed in 1983, when rebels sought more autonomy and economic development for the Christian and animist south

authorities believe a "high percentage" of grave robbers from Qurna have married foreign women in Luxor to make it easier to smuggle artefacts out of Egypt.

"They find their way up a chain until they find a legal market," according to Caroline Wakeford, operations manager for the Art Loss Register.

The Art Loss Register, owned by auction houses and insurance companies, tries to prevent sales of stolen art by checking auction catalogues.

The Egyptian government has expressed interest in the data base, she added.

Interpol, the International Police Organisation, logs its photographs of stolen art with the data base, including items from Egypt.

"The worldwide market for all stolen art is estimated at \$3 billion annually and growing — which is second only to drug trafficking — and Egyptian antiquities are a steady part of it," Ms. Wakeford said.

Mr. Polz said: "They know the shafts, passages, and the tombs."

The best solution is to move the 500 families from the Qurna area to a new village, according to M.A. Nureddin, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation. "Then we'll have no possibility at all for tomb robbing."

A nearby site has already been selected and the relocation could take place within the next few years, but the villagers are reluctant to move from their ancestral homes.

Mr. Nureddin also said he was concerned that homes were built too closely to tombs, temples and other sites in Alexandria, Egypt's second largest city, as well as at the temples of Idu and Esna in the south.

"It's an open museum," one official lamented.

Antiquities officials were alerted to an apparent case of grave robbing in May when Fatma Nagdy, a widow in Qurna, reported hearing voices, digging and explosions beneath her mud house.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

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Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Take two for Libya

LIBYA'S APPARENT decision to leave open the possibility that two of its nationals who are accused of having blown up a U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988 be tried in Britain or the U.S. assumes a calculated risk that might nevertheless be worth taking. The crisis over the Pan American jetliner that was blown up in the air five years ago and took the lives of hundreds of innocent passengers took a turn to the worst last week when Washington, Paris and London decided to turn up the heat again on Tripoli by threatening to impose stiffer and more comprehensive sanctions on Libya if the two were not handed over for trial by Oct. 1.

While this western intimidation of Libya is inexcusable on strictly legal grounds, there may be a way out for the Libyans to accept the proposal of allowing the suspects to voluntarily stand trial in Britain or the U.S. The Qadhafi regime should anyway strive to prevent certain quarters from wreaking havoc in his country under the guise of seeking to administer justice.

The Libyan foreign minister did in fact confirm Tripoli's willingness to play ball over the dispute by telling the world Tuesday that the two men "have the right to turn themselves over to whomever they want." Thus, by signalling its readiness to have the two stand trial in England or the U.S., Tripoli may yet succeed in pulling the rug from under the feet of its foes. If the effort succeeds, the enemies of Libya will be denied the opportunity to strike against the country for reasons that may go beyond the Lockerbie case.

The tribulations of Libya, over sacrificing its own domestic laws which disallow forceful extradition of Libyans to foreign states in favour of foreign political considerations, could be lessened by assurances that any trial of the two Libyans in Britain or the U.S. would be fair and subject to international supervision. The United Nations can and should be represented in any such court procedure since Washington, London and Paris are pegging their stance to U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted against Libya. A close international scrutiny of the projected trial of the suspects over and above the normally fair court procedures in either country may end up vindicating Tripoli's protestations that the Libyans in question are truly innocent of the charges against them.

London and Washington in particular stand to lose a lot of credibility if the suspects were to be found not guilty. If, on the other hand, they are found guilty as charged, the Libyan government could still escape international punishment in the form of sanctions or otherwise after having complied with the international will. Given the fact that the "evidence" against the Libyans is not that much convincing or credible, Tripoli is wise to give justice a chance even though it is going to be administered by foreign courts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY ANNOUNCING a temporary amendment election law, His Majesty King Hussein has put an end to rumours and controversies in Jordan over the past few months, said Al Dustour Daily. The new law, which draws its spirit from the Constitution, will enable Jordanians to vote freely and fairly in the coming general elections and prove once again their strict adherence to democracy, said the paper. Indeed, the new law which was recommended by the government guarantees equality and fairness for all Jordanians, regardless of their origin or their creed, it said. The law is inspired by the country's domestic circumstances and in light of the developments in the region, the paper added. Under the new law, each citizen can choose only one person to represent him or her in Parliament, thus ensuring equal rights for all, it pointed out. Jordanians should heed King Hussein's words in his national address urging them to participate in the election and exercise their right which enhances democracy in the country, called the paper. It echoed the King's words which said that democracy was a requirement for Jordan which now stands at the threshold of two important endeavours: completing the democratic process and pursuing efforts to achieve the goals of the Great Arab Revolt.

COMMENTING on a planned visit to the United States by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a columnist in Sawt Al Shehab daily said the visit aims at urging Washington to stop North Korea from supplying missiles to Syria. Salameh Ekour said that after failing through its diplomatic efforts to stop North Korea from selling arms to Syria, Israel is turning to its ally, the United States, to do that work for it. It is clear that Israel, which continues to build a formidable arsenal of mass destruction weapons, is determined to prevent the Arabs from acquiring technology for progress in the scientific, military and other fields, said the writer. Israel is not doubt pursuing this policy in order to ensure its continued domination of the Arab region now that the Iraqi weapons, missiles and scientific centres have been destroyed, he added. The writer said one could not rule out the possibility of the United States moving to curb arms shipment to Syria through the U.N. Security Council. He said that Washington could also do that through its influence on other nations that could sell advanced technology to the Arabs. Should this happen, the writer said, the Arabs are expected to remain passive as they did watching Israel inciting Washington and the United Nations to destroy the Iraqi weapons and scientific centres.

Gandhi, Demjanjuk and Judaism's lex talionis

By G.H. Jansen

MAHATMA GANDHI, of all people, would have fully understood — and fully condemned — the 16-year-old campaign of revenge which the Zionists and the state of Israel have waged against John Demjanjuk, a former Ukrainian, accused to have been a guard in the Nazi concentration camps in Europe during World War II.

Sixteen years ago, Jewish "Nazi-hunters" in the U.S. started their campaign to have this Ukrainian auto worker in Cleveland, Ohio, extradited to Israel to be tried there for "crimes against humanity" and where, it was assumed, he would be found guilty and imprisoned for the rest of his life (or possibly sentenced to death and executed as had happened to Adolph Eichman, as a special case, since there is no death sentence in Israeli law).

For nine years Mr. Demjanjuk and his lawyers delayed the extradition by arguing that his Jewish accusers had wrongly identified him as "Ivan the Terrible," a guard in the death camp of Treblinka who supervised the herding of Jews into the gas ovens where they were poisoned en masse. Finally the U.S., under Jewish pressure, agreed to the extradition on a technical point, though there is evidence that the U.S. departments of immigration and of justice had their doubts at that time about the identification. For the last seven years Mr.

Demjanjuk has been held in Israel passing through the Israeli judicial system all the way to the supreme court. A lower court in Israel found him guilty and sentenced him to death. Two weeks ago the supreme court ruled that, because of evidence from recently released material from files of the former Soviet Union, there was "reasonable doubt" about Mr. Demjanjuk is being really "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka; because of this the death sentence was quashed and his deportation from the U.S. to Israel was declared invalid so he could leave Israel for whichever country would admit him.

But the supreme court then muddied the waters by saying that there was credible evidence that Mr. Demjanjuk had been a guard at another death camp, Sobibor. This finding was immediately seized upon by death camp survivors in Israel, and elsewhere, and by the Nazi-hunting Simon Wiesenthal Foundation which petitioned the court to have Mr. Demjanjuk held in Israel to face fresh charges of crimes against humanity at Sobibor. On Aug. 18, 1993, the supreme court rejected these petitions and decided that Mr. Demjanjuk should be released and deported from Israel, thus frustrating the vengeance-seekers who, however, are still attempting to have him held in Israel on various technical points.

The Mahatma comes into

this picture because a public opinion poll showed that two-thirds of Israelis questioned said that Mr. Demjanjuk, after being held for sixteen years and then released, should be held on another charge, for a further trial and, possibly, punishment.

"The Jewish desire for revenge, the lex talionis, of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth which Gandhi saw as a part of Jewish morality and which he condemned as obstinate and unenlightened has been revealed not only in the Demjanjuk case but also through Israeli public approval — three quarters of those polled — of the recent Operation Accountability in southern Lebanon, one objective of which, according to the Israeli prime minister, was the creation of a flood of refugees to put pressure on the Lebanese government to do something Israel wanted it to do."

Israeli feelings on this issue were clearly explained when a spokesman for the extremist, racist, hardline Kach party (which believes that all Arabs should be expelled from the Jewish state) said: "We are not looking for justice, we are looking for revenge."

It was in 1938, when Palestine was in the news because of fighting there between Arabs and Zionists, that the Mahatma was asked for his views on

wrong and inhuman to impose the Jews on the Arabs. Surely it would be a crime against humanity to reduce the proud Arabs so that Palestine can be restored to the Jews partly or wholly as their national home." And: "why should they (the Jews) depend upon American money or British arms to force themselves on an unwelcome land?... Why should they resort to terrorism to make good their forcible landing in Palestine?"

Thus, far more significant than the decision by the Israeli supreme court is the fact that the vehemence of Israeli public opinion on two recent events has more than validated the stern strictures of Mahatma Gandhi over 50 years ago.

It is the strictures of the Mahatma, based on moral principles, that the Indian government, under pressure from the U.S. and acting on considerations of expediency, conveniently forgot when, last year, it opened full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

Opposition fizzling out

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein put his weight behind the decision to change the Election Law.

"The government relied on the King's popularity to pass the changes," said one observer. "No government could have done it on its own."

"In his speech, the King sent a message to the people who trust him and believe in him, that this (changing the law) is his decision," said one former deputy.

The opposition knew the majority of the people would not go against a decision taken by the King, said one observer.

People started expressing their support for the King immediately after he announced the electoral change. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday reported that "leading personalities, heads of municipalities and tribal figures" sent the King cables expressing their "total support" for his decision to change the Election Law.

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawi also sent King Hussein a cable in which he emphasised that "amending the Election Law would represent a bright turning point in enriching our democratic march."

Mr. Lawi said the Senate fully supports the electoral changes announced by King Hussein in a

televised speech Tuesday. Other observers said opponents of changing the Election Law were encouraged by the King's assurances that he would personally see to it that the elections be fair and free.

But in the view of many observers, the major reason behind the "weak" reaction to electoral change which the majority of political parties oppose is the "non-existence of real opposition in Jordan."

"The Islamists never represented true opposition," one former deputy, Mr. Faris Nabulsi, said.

"The left is weak and divided," said another former deputy.

And the opposition in general "has no political platform or set of choices around which it could mobilise people," said Mustafa Hamarneh, a political science professor who heads Jordan University's Strategic Studies Centre.

Dr. Hamarneh now expects election campaigns to start in full swing and other observers say the next Parliament will continue the debate on the Election Law.

The changes announced Tuesday touched on one aspect of the law only. The next Parliament would probably deal with other issues such as voting districts, minority seats and the age of eligible voters, observers said.

Minority may scramble strategies

(Continued from page 1)

feasibility of programmes of candidates regardless of religious background," he said.

By the same token, Christian candidates would be better off trying to get together and reduce their numbers in the race by consensus since the so-called "community votes" could be easily splintered with a high number of candidates trying to win the hearts and minds of the voters, says the senior analyst.

A former minister who had lost his bid for a House seat in 1989 but intends to run again in November believes that "the Christian voters are a highly intelligent electorate."

"What matters for a majority of them is the qualifications of the candidate rather than party affiliations or religious appeal," said the ex-minister.

According to former Karak Deputy Issa Midanat, the lone communist member in the dissolved Parliament, the overriding factor that will be quite visible when results come out of the Nov. 8 polls is victories substantially reduced

number of votes when compared with comparative figures from 1989.

For instance, says Mr. Midanat, "I got 10,500 votes in the last elections, but this time I do not think I would get more than 3,000."

But then, he adds, "the cases with Muslim candidates will not be any different, given the fact that there would be dozens if not hundreds of aspirants to the House from each constituency."

Saad Haddadin, who won the Christian seat from Mada'in in 1989 also with considerable help from the Brotherhood, believes that candidates have to keep all options open and not take anything for granted or draw comfort from the results of the last elections.

"There is a host of new factors in the equation," he said. "The four years of parliamentary life since 1989 have raised the political awareness of the voters, and this, coupled with the change in the electoral process, has to be given utmost consideration."

Britain, France cautious on Libya

(Continued from page 1)

JANA reported that Mr. Mubarak and Colonel Qadhafi held a private meeting Tuesday night, then met again Wednesday morning with their aids.

The report, monitored in Cairo, gave no information about the content of the talks.

The Egyptian daily Al Ahram reported that Col. Qadhafi would pay a return visit to Egypt in September.

Libya said Tuesday it was prepared to discuss the two Lockerbie suspects standing trial in Britain or the United States with a

U.N. Security Council representative or the U.N. secretary general, having until now insisted they should only be tried in a "neutral country."

It also expressed readiness to cooperate with French magistrates probing the bombing of the UTA airliner.

The British Foreign Office in London said "what we are interested in is what they actually do," in response to Tripoli's offer to discuss whether the two Lockerbie suspects standing trial in Britain or the United States.

"It will be difficult," one of them said, "but we think that the front will want to keep its good relations with the regime and would avoid a confrontation."

Islamists thrown off balance

(Continued from page 1)

meaning of success or failure that presents itself in our question which would affect the future of our nation, and the future of man whom God has honoured," the King said. "Thus, I urge them to be loyal and to work sincerely. They have contributed in drafting the National Charter and the development of the country alongside all citizens, Muslims and Christians alike."

"What do we need more than this?" a moderate IAF leader asked. "The King has placed us with him in the same trench."

But the "moderates" also recognise that the final say is in the hands of the group's 16-member political office which finds itself divided, almost along the middle, between them and the "hawks".

An emergency meeting of that office was held Wednesday morning during which, sources said, "the atmosphere was tense and the mood was both confused and inflexible."

The "hawks" were still demanding that the IAF join forces with other opposition political forces in the country which are preparing to take the government to court over the new election law and then boycott the ballots if the courts rejected their case, one of the sources said.

The "moderates" are now hoping for a last-minute intervention from the King which, they say, will help them win over the members who are still undecided over what the next step should be. They, however, stress that moves from the Majali government for that purpose "would not be acceptable."

"We will not have a dialogue with this government," one of the more influential "moderates" said. But he added that he believed that a positive step from the "diwan" (court) could "turn the tables against the hawks and to our advantage."

A meeting of the Muslim Brotherhood movement's political office has been called for Thursday and other meeting of the executive committee of the IAF was called for Saturday. It was expected that a vote on whether to boycott the polls would be taken in Saturday's meeting.

Most of those interviewed Thursday believed that the group will forge ahead with its plan to sue the government for introducing a temporary election law but that it would win enough support for participation in the Nov. 8 elections.

"It will be difficult," one of them said, "but we think that the front will want to keep its good relations with the regime and would avoid a confrontation."

Israel awaiting concessions before talks with PLO

By Marjorie Olster
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel has moved closer to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation but will not go all the way unless it gains concessions in peace talks with Palestinians, analysts and politicians say.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin still refuses to negotiate with Yasir Arafat and other PLO leaders outside the Israeli-occupied territories but he will keep talking with local Palestinians even now that the PLO has appointed them to senior positions.

Israel would not commit the final act of talking directly to the PLO without getting a very good price," said Dedi Zucker, a member of Parliament from the Dovish Meretz bloc in Mr. Rabin's left-centre government.

Mr. Zucker, who with Environment Minister Yossi Sarid met senior PLO official Nabil Shaath in Cairo last month, told Reuters that price would probably be a softening of PLO opposition on key issues in the peace talks with Israel.

Israel did not blink last week when the PLO in Tunis gave top jobs to Palestinian negotiators from the occupied territories for the first time. It called the move "gimmicky" and said nothing was changed in the 21-month-old talks due to resume on August 31.

"There is a Palestinian delegation with which we are negotiating. Its relations with Tunis are its matter," insisted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The PLO appointments ended a leadership fight between Tunis and Palestinians in the occupied territories but the row focused attention in Israel on which of the two groups could deliver a peace agreement quicker.

Israel and the Palestinians have made little headway in talks on interim self-rule in the occupied territories.

"Overall there are weaknesses and plentiful divisions inside the PLO camp," said political analyst Joseph Alpher, director of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

"The impression is they can't get their act together and deliver the prize so why should Rabin take a political risk and bring Tunis in when he doesn't know what he will gain by it?"

Until Mr. Rabin came to power in July 1992, Israel had banned any contact with the PLO, calling it a terrorist group out to destroy the Jewish state.

Tough choices

By Jean-Claude Elias

Buying a computer programme (software) in order to do personal work is not always simple. Yet, as it has often been mentioned in this very column, making the right choice of software is of prime importance. Most of the time, it is more consequential than the choice of the hardware.

Let's take the most widely used type of programmes on personal computers — word processing (WP), as an example. There are tens of WP packages on the market but only a few have reached "stardom", Microsoft Word, Word Perfect and WordStar, to name only the most famous trio.

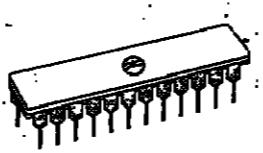
Which one is the best? The question cannot be answered and should not be asked in the first place. Although specialised publications tend to publish comparative studies and charts and conduct readers' surveys, no pragmatic analysis can decide which of the above programmes would be selected as a clear winner.

The reason is very simple, all of them are very powerful, comprehensive and lead to the same result. Notwithstanding minor variations, they all have the same features and functions, though not activated in the same way in each programme.

Then how is one supposed to make a choice? Simply according to personal taste. The presentation of the menus, the layout of the functions, the overall aspect of the screens and the ease of use are enough to make a clear distinction between the contenders.

A point to consider is whether the programme should work from DOS (the main operating system) or from the Windows operating system. Most of the well known packages now have both versions. One should remember

chip talk



that a "Windowed" programme offers enormous possibilities but overall works slower than its DOS version.

For some special applications, none of the above mentioned trio would give satisfactory performance. For those preparing a thesis in mathematics for instance, the CHI-Writer word processing programme would be infinitely superior, thanks to its huge, easy to use, collection of scientific and mathematical symbols.

If you intend to share your work with someone else, it makes sense to use the same software. Though most of the data can be converted from one programme to another, you better do the work without conversion. Nothing works perfectly in conversion and there's always something lost in the way. It's like computers, they are never 100 per cent compatible.

When shopping for software, the user should try and remain "task oriented" and not "name oriented". In other words think about a good spreadsheet software rather than thinking LOTUS 123, Excel or Quattro. A piece of software is not a soft drink! Ask the dealer to make a demonstration and make your own judgment without being influenced.

Belgian restaurant fishes for new customers in London, Tokyo

By Jane Morrison
Reuter

BRUSSELS — The Belgian restaurant chain Chez Leon is hoping to carve out an international niche for the country's most famous dish — steaming plates of mussels served with French fries.

Chez Leon, 100 years old this year, is looking at sites in London and in Tokyo, after successfully opening five franchise outlets in Paris.

"I want Leon to be a compromise between a restaurant and fast food, bringing food to clients who do not want to pay too much but who demand quality," Rudy Vanlancker, one of the restaurant's owners, told Reuters.

Chez Leon started out as a five table restaurant selling mussels and French fries in the historic centre of Brussels in 1893. The fame of the national dish was embellished by Jacques Brel, Belgium's most

famous modern singer, who referred to it in one of his songs.

Chez Leon's menu in Belgium is much wider now. Abroad it focuses on its core product, accompanied by Belgian beer.

The restaurants — there are five in Belgium and five in Paris — serve four tonnes of mussels a day. They offer 14 different mussel dishes, ranging from raw mussels to mussel stew and mussels au gratin.

Chez Leon's fame spread in Belgium after the 1958 Brussels World Fair. But it was not until 1988 that the restaurant ventured outside the country with its first franchise in Paris.

More restaurants in the French capital quickly followed, including one in the fashionable Champs Elysees.

Eating mussels and French fries in Parisian Leon De Bruxelles, which advertises its Belgian roots unashamedly, is considered chic. Mr.

Vanlancker said. Belgians are often the butt of French jokes, but there is an obvious appreciation of the country's cuisine, where good food is a way of life.

Mussels are best eaten with one's fingers from a big stew cooked with celery and white wine.

Mr. Vanlancker said he thought restaurant goers liked the novelty as well as the "health" cachet of mussels, which are low in fat and rich in protein and vitamins.

But he said Chez Leon was flexible about customer tastes. In France, the restaurants sell smaller mussels than in Belgium with thin French fries rather than the fat variety favoured in Belgium.

In London the menu will include a large variety of the hundreds of Belgium's beers, popular with British drinkers, as well as tea. Belgium imports all its

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 19

place and someone tries to shoot him.

Monday, Aug. 23

Saturday, Aug. 21

8:30 Wacky World
In this episode Sofia travels to Sicily, Italy to meet one of her ex-husbands, whom she left a long time ago and caused him many emotional problems.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — No Where To Hide
Carl the creative director in the company is fired from his job, and Michael takes over his position.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mystery Movie — Col umbo
Fade into Murder

Sunday, Aug. 22

8:30 Step By Step
Carol, Frank's wife, is jealous because a girl named Amy starts working with him.

9:10 Documentary — The Dream Machine

Inventing The Future

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Mini-Series

Le Géant

9:00 Local Programme — "Faces And Places"

9:30 A Kind Of Magic

More magical tricks with Wayne Dobson and his friend Bingo the rabbit.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — White Heat
Starring: James Cagney and Virginia Mayo

9:10 Thirtysomething

Pulling Away

Wednesday, Aug. 25
Major Rob Cutler, a pilot in the Air Force, finds out that the helicopters the air force bought are against the specifications and regulations since two of them crashed.

8:30 Night Court

The Muggee

In this episode Christine gets robbed by someone and she decides not to defend thieves and murderers any more.

9:10 French Documentary — Notre Siècle

Un Monde Nouveau

This documentary talks about all the inventions that took place between the years 1900-1914 such as aeroplanes, trains etc.

8:30 People Next Door

Dream Date

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — Shattered Promises

Starring: Treat Williams and Brian Dennehy

Allen, a lawyer, divorces his wife to marry his secretary Dayan after a long love affair, his wife finds out.

9:30 A Kind Of Magic

Uncivilisation

By E. Vaghi

Decide what you want,
decide what you are willing
to exchange for it.
Establish your priorities
and go to work.
H.L. Hunt

Before beginning, in order to avoid the dilemma of mind cramping, it is necessary to define the terms morals and ethics. Such terms are used universally and have much the same meaning within the context of the three great religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism, and in many secular societies.

A moral action is one that relates to the principle of right or wrong. Ethics is the discipline of dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation. A "right" action therefore is one that follows a moral code of ethics and a "wrong" action is one that violates that code.

The philosopher David Hartley believed that man is selfish by nature and thinks more in terms of what will benefit himself and not others. Thomas Hobbes said that there must be some form of authority to control man's behaviour and that a "social contract" would protect man's inherent rights. David Hume stated that the principle of seeking to promote the common good must be accepted as the dominant principle of morality. Being an altruist he felt that a sentiment for and a sympathy with one's fellows was to grieve with the grieving and laugh with those who laugh. He believed moral decisions are grounded upon moral sentiment and that the greater part of morality is a regard for others.

The great philosopher Albert Schweitzer warned about the crisis facing Western civilisation and said that war is a phenomenon of the condition of uncivilisation. He felt that there is threat of a collapse of civilisation and wondered why there existed such degeneration and what was its nature. It was then he concluded that the reason for this decay and decline of civilisation was due to a lack of spiritualism and an emphasis on materialism. Man has made the conditions of human existence incomparably more favourable in numerous respects but in his enthusiasm over progress and power has arrived at a defective conception of civilisation itself. It is true, that in placing too high a value on material achievements, man no longer keeps in mind the importance of the spiritual element in life. Lack of this element is like a human body without a soul.

It is quite possible for any developing nation to tend to overlook the detrimental consequences of concentration mainly on material aspects and neglect spiritualism. Thus if any country focuses merely on science and technology and imitates these degenerative aspects of Western civilisation, then that country is as likely to be heading for trouble as any Western one. Does it really matter then how many cars a person owns or which side of town that person lives in? Is it important to dress in a certain manner and then claim that one is civilised? Indeed not, for civilisation is an essence that comes from within which should polish the manners of the beholder as well as make that beholder a seeker of knowledge and advancement in the fields of science and technology while retaining a proper sense of morality, love and concern for one's fellow man. A lonely shepherd faithfully caring for his flock of sheep who has compassion and sympathy for his fellow mankind might be quite possibly more civilised than his more cultured counterpart whose claim in being progressive and advanced lies only in the amount of his material possessions.

When a society or nation retains its spiritualism and a code of ethics with the thought of positive creativity which is beneficial to the progress of humanity (defined in Webster's Dictionary as mankind) then it is on the path of civilisation. Jean-Paul Sartre, a philosopher, novelist, playwright and exponent of Existentialism — a philosophy proclaiming the freedom of the individual human being — defended human dignity and his ethical message stressed the social responsibility of freedom. Sartre was a man who believed in not only writing about his philosophical ideas but his motto became, "commitment is an act, not a word." He practiced what he preached and while a teacher, he refused to wear a tie as if he could shed his social class and thus become closer to the workers.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shaqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

★ In 1799, investigators found out documents inside the bowels of a shark and used them to convict an American captain of trading with enemies.

★ ★ ★ ★

★ On the Rocky Mountains (USA) live types of locusts which get frozen in winter and regain vitality in spring.

★ ★ ★ ★

★ A worker in Los Angeles never absented himself for a 41-year service in a shop.

★ ★ ★ ★

★ Letter-Carriers in the ancient kingdom of Inca used to run at an average speed of 17 km per hour to deliver their mail.

★ ★ ★ ★

★ In 1967, scientists discovered a crocodiles' cave where there were 18 of them; all having white skin and blue eyes.

★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

THE WEATHER

— What dreadful weather!
— Look at the rainbow.
— We shall have a storm.
— It's a sign of fine weather.

Ya lahu min jaw radi!
Ouzor illa kaws kuzah,
Sawfa taboh assifa.

— It has left off raining.
— The sun is up.
— The sun has set.
— It's a dark night.

Howa alama illa tabasson el-taks,
Inkata's el matar.
El shams mshirika.
El shams garabat.

— It's getting dark.
— It's a bright day.
— It's full moon.

Heya illa muzzima.
Ja'zz zalam.
Howa yawn salu.
Innaha bedr kamel.

★ ★ ★ ★

JOKES

A college boy walked into a pet shop and looked into an immense tank full of fish. The proprietor came over and asked if he could help.

"Yes," replied the young man, "I want that fish there."

He pointed to a beautifully coloured specimen.

After considerable manipulating of the net the shop owner finally caught the fish.

Again the man had to do a lot of maneuvering to catch another fish.

"Is that it?" he asked when he finally netted the fish.

"Yes," replied the youth.

"All right, sir," said the proprietor, "if you'll wait just a minute I'll put it in a container for you."

"Oh, don't bother," replied the college boy, "I'll swallow it here."

PUZZLES

Hole Words

(I) Can you tell which three-letter word is missing in each case from the words below?

(a) S.....PER
(b)ERA
(c) BE.....E
(d) EN....PMENT

★ ★ ★ ★

(II) Twice a certain number exceeds five-eighths of its half by twenty-seven. What is the number?

★ ★ ★ ★

(III) If a clock takes 20 seconds to strike 5, how long will it take to strike 10?

PEN PALS

To the Editor:

I have a small correspondence club that I produce here in Tasmania, by the name of Tasmanian Blue Gum and I am interested in writing and exchanging letters with people in Australia. I have received many letters and would really love to help all these people.

I make no profit from this club — it is solely a hobby, so I write to ask if it would be at all possible to insert a small notice in your publication so that anyone interested could write to me for more details. An International Reply Coupon would be appreciated to enable me to reply but I prefer not to send people's names along if they would prefer not to send coupons. As you could appreciate it would be very expensive to reply to everyone otherwise.

There always seems to be many people looking for Australian friends and I hope that I am able to help some Australians find overseas friends.

My sincere thanks for any help you are able to give.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Lynne Hoggatt
5 McKinly Street
Midway Point 7171
Tasmania
(002) 651842.

Tiana Alexandra — building a bridge to Vietnam

By Paula Sands

HANOVER, U.S.A. — The award-winning documentary *From Hollywood To Hanoi*, which has been shown in Europe and on college campuses across the United States, opened in New York City on July 21, mostly through the determined efforts of Tiana Alexandra, 32, the film's writer, director star and promoter. "I wanted to build a bridge between America and Vietnam," she explained. "I thought that the misunderstandings, the lack of knowledge of culture has really caused a lot of pain on both sides."

Before turning movie-maker, Alexandra — who left Vietnam with her family in 1966, when she was 4 — was an actress in action movies. She learned martial arts techniques with Bruce Lee and was his only female student.

From *Hollywood To Hanoi* won Best of Telluride at the Telluride Film Festival and was nominated for best film at the Sundance Film Festival created by actor Robert Redford to spotlight new talents. Alexandra is busy promoting the film, working on its sequel and teaching film to aspiring film-makers at prestigious Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. In an exclusive interview, she discussed how the film has changed her life.

Like so many others, she has her own Vietnam story.

"We thought my uncle had been killed by the Communists. We had heard a rumour that he was. I found him in Saigon — in his home." This was Alexandra's first trip back to Vietnam, in January 1988 with friend Oliver Stone to whom movie buffs owe *Platoon*, *Born On The Fourth Of July*, and *JFK*. She has since been back 12 times and Stone encouraged her to do the movie she dreamt of.

"I did not go back to make a film. I went to answer so many questions I had in my heart. I had no idea that in this world of communications we could have called up my uncle. He was alive all these years."

Alexandra says that mail does pass between the U.S. and Vietnam, but most people don't think that opportunity is available. "People inside the country don't think they should write to you, either. They can't afford the postage stamp. I interviewed two aunts that I found. In a very moving scene, one wept and said that a stamp cost 5,000 dong, or 50 cents. At the time she couldn't afford it."

"I thought, what is going on? We hear things in America that have nothing to do with reality in Vietnam — and I go to Vietnam and they're wondering why we don't write to them, why they haven't heard from us. Frankly, we thought they

were dead."

Alexandra says even talking of Vietnam conjures up images of the fallen Saigon — of the Americans, of the helicopters taking off, of soldiers hitting people with the butts of their guns, of the Vietnamese being left to fend for themselves in the China Seas.

"It is a great national shame, I'm an American now, and I join Americans in guilt and shame — and for a while not wanting to take a look at it. We must now."

Adamantly opposed to the economic trade embargo imposed by the U.S. against Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in 1975, she calls it hypocritical. "It's a shame because any American company that has tentacles all over the world that wants to be in Vietnam is already in Vietnam. Why do we keep it in effect so that people can't rejoin their families?"

Alexandra also expresses distress at seeing U.S.-Vietnamese relations still soured — after two decades — by the PoW-MIA issue. "Every time you think it's going to go away, it comes back and is sensationalised. I think it's a cruel hoax perpetrated on the families in America." She says the issue has become a business for lobby groups that sell bracelets and other trinkets, lobby for money, and raise millions in the name of Rambo. "They don't want that to

die because their income would be depleted... and those poor family members don't want to let go, don't want to face up to the fact that their loved ones are dead and gone forever."

Mainly, though, Alexandra is concerned with family reunification. From *Hollywood To Hanoi* is about the truth as Alexandra discovered it. "I'm sharing my personal family story as a symbol of what's gone on between America and Vietnam. I think it is important for the world to see the truth."

She has shown the film in France, England, Germany and other countries. "People from Germany come up to me and they weep," she says. "Here at Harvard Film Archives, the curator in charge is Yugoslavian. He feels I made it for Bosnia, for the former Yugoslavia. A woman from Germany felt I made it for people like her. She was 5 when the bombs rained down on Dresden — she said she could never talk about it because that meant she was on the wrong side and it was unpopular to talk about it. She relates to a film that talks about things that are not popular."

Alexandra says the film is entertaining as well as informative because she personalised it. "After all," she said, "I came to Hollywood. I made action-adventure films.

I'm a martial artist. I'm a music video artist. I go back to Vietnam to find all this. I use clips sharing my personal life that people find entertaining."

"I'm absolutely thrilled that I was able to build this bridge, so to speak." She says that on her first trip to Vietnam she had not intention of filming — until after she spoke to an old woman in the country. "I said to her, 'I didn't realise you have no antibiotics. I will bring some back on my next trip. Is there anything else I can bring?' And she said, 'Please bring materials to build a bridge.'

Alexandra says she panicked. "I thought, I am not U.S. Steel. I'm not rich. She expects me to bring cement and steel to Vietnam!" Then the old woman broke into a sonnet as Vietnamese poet — "They are very poetic. It's a great part of our literature and our national heritage. She said, 'We will build the bridge from Vietnam to the United States. We will cross it together, and we will share a new language'."

"I just wept and thought, I will help you build the bridge," Alexandra said. She returned to the United States and sold everything she had.

"I have been on this journey six years now, finally opening in New York City and doing it myself because I'm not distributed. It has been an uphill battle all the way."

Nevertheless, she says, it has been rewarding to find her family, to share her new-found family with other members of her family in the U.S. to be, as she puts it, "the Pied Piper."

"I am on the cutting edge of people going back to find their loved ones 20 years later," Alexandra said. "How long are we going to wait — until they all die?" When people ask her why now, she tells them: "Now is the time that I'm doing it. That is why now."

Alexandra says she got discouraged only because of money problems. "As an artist and as a film-maker, I never got discouraged in terms of the love and compassion and welcome of the Vietnamese people. I learned so much. I was so amazed at their sense of forgiveness. They are the ones who were bombed and, when Americans come back, they welcome us. They want to take our hand. They want to say, you came back in peace. Welcome."

Many Vietnam veterans who have gone back to Vietnam turn around and dedicate the rest of their lives to doing people-to-people projects, Alexandra said. "I was swept up by that, too."

The lack of humanitarian aid into Vietnam since the end of the war, Alexandra says, is astounding. "People don't realise that no country

has ever survived being bombed like that. In modern history, we've never had a country that's been able to move forward without major help after the end of its war. The U.S. helped to rebuild Germany and Japan. We won't help to rebuild Vietnam, but why won't we lift the embargo so others can go?" Alexandra blames "the old men" and their wanting to punish Vietnam for winning. "If it is any consolation to them, I don't think Vietnam won. I don't think we all lost. Certainly, Vietnam isn't gloating."

According to Alexandra, only so much can be done without lifting the embargo which essentially blocks any help from international bodies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. "Normalisation will help the bilateral aid going to Vietnam. Now we have this business section wanting to go in to rape and pillage, turning Vietnam from a battlefield to a marketplace, to a tourist centre."

She admits there are many obstacles to be overcome, and she does not want From *Hollywood To Hanoi* to reopen old wounds. "I'm not bringing it up for anyone to feel bad or to feel guilty. I am bringing it up to remind us... We love to hear stories about how cruel the Communists were, of the boat people —



During one of her many visits to Vietnam, Tiana Alexandra met former North Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong

and then we get tired of it."

"We say to the boat people, you now have economic freedom, so you're just leaving for economic reasons. We don't want you."

"My camera, my 75 hours of film, has told me such an astonishing story that I've changed my whole life to do what I can as one film-maker, one human being to aid the Vietnamese," Alexandra said. "I am from the south. I know that a lot of people in the south still feel that we must punish the Communists forever and that we must not go back because it will help the Communists, but I don't see that the Communists are being hurt by the embargo."

Alexandra says that it is the children of Vietnam, who are dying from malnutrition and other diseases, who are still suffering from the mistakes of the past. She is also concerned about the Americans — children of American servicemen and Vietnamese women. Some come to the U.S. in hopes of finding their fathers, but they receive no help.

"I discovered that the aftermath of war between America and Vietnam got erased from our memory," she explained. "But it is still there, lingering, needing to be resolved beyond PoW-MIAs, which are bones."

She describes the MIA issue as one of finding bones, of spending huge amounts of taxpayer money to determine whether "this is a French bone or an American bone or a Vietnamese bone — and if it's a Vietnamese bone, is it a Viet Cong bone? And if it is, then we don't care. How do you draw the line on what's a bone?"

Alexandra has interviewed members of the U.S. Army Intelligence-State Department Task Force who have been going to Vietnam to sift through bones. "Vietnamese women dig and dig and dig at slave labour wages — I have film of this — to find bones that satisfy the American public."

The Vietnamese, she explains, have 300,000 MIAs of their own. Until we can hear the voices of these war victims, we will have a limited picture of the situation, she said. "Only then can we come together as the old peasant woman said — only then can we build a bridge together, share a new language, only then can we learn that 70 million Vietnamese don't hate us."

"At Dartmouth College, I ask my film students, what do you think of Vietnam — if you think of it at all? And they say, 'Thank God it's over!' They think of Vietnam as a war! I'm talking about the country."

That, she explains, is really her point. "Hollywood and the media keep perpetuating the Rambo myth of the war. There is no war between America and Vietnam. It's over. It's two decades old. The only war we have here in the U.S. is the one raging inside ourselves; in Vietnam, the only war is a war of poverty." — World News Link.

Tiana Alexandra gives a boost to documentaries

HANOVER, U.S.A. — Tiana Alexandra's documentary movie *From Hollywood To Hanoi* is the story of a Vietnamese exile going home to rediscover herself. The film has received rave reviews in Europe and the U.S. where it opened in New York on July 21 before going to Washington, D.C. Yet, the actress-turned-director did it without the help of the Hollywood film industry.

"I feel the energy that I've been fed in New York from non-fiction film-makers — independent film-makers," Alexandra said. "They can do something for very little. They can pull themselves up by their bootstraps and come up with something. It is very much a guerrilla style — and I'm very attracted to it." Yet, after six years on the road, Alexandra says that it wouldn't hurt to have somebody in Los Angeles make a "few phone calls" — "and you're distributed" throughout the world.

"They know about me — they know the show," said a frustrated Alexandra. "We've had very successful showings in Los Angeles... It's so encouraging on the one hand; on the other hand, you would think that all this would get me (commercial) distribution."

Alexandra says that mail does pass between the U.S. and Vietnam, but most people don't think that opportunity is available. "People inside the country don't think they should write to you, either. They can't afford the postage stamp. I interviewed two aunts that I found. In a very moving scene, one wept and said that a stamp cost 5,000 dong, or 50 cents. At the time she couldn't afford it."

"I thought, what is going on? We hear things in America that have nothing to do with reality in Vietnam — and I go to Vietnam and they're wondering why we don't write to them, why they haven't heard from us. Frankly, we thought they

on the west coast. "The world that I'm in here is filled with idealistic, humanitarian film-makers. The world I was in is filled with super-energetic ideas that stand on hype — and the goal is to make money and to win, more than it is the humanitarian concerns that I have been dealing with. It is totally different." Yet, she says, because she is from Hollywood, she is also making films that don't preach, yet have a message.

Alexandra says she misses Hollywood in the sense that she would like to push her ideas there. "There's a lot of money and a lot of powerful people there who can, with a phone call, help launch many more of these non-fiction films... There are some hard-thinking, hard-working people in Los Angeles who I think could be made to realise that they don't have to put all their energies into making money."

"I guess that I'm saying that we need to get back to our centre, our roots, our spirituality — whatever it is that people call a third eye, whatever it is that centres us, that makes us feel good," Alexandra said. "I think there are a lot of people making a lot of money in Hollywood who are very dissatisfied with their lives, who need a cause."

Alexandra says she is a firm believer in creating your own destiny and reaching out to people. One staunch friend is film-maker Oliver Stone. "He says, 'go with God.' He writes a check here and there, but the Oliver Stones don't give you the bulk of what you need. You need that from the public." She says she is very encouraged because the public is reacting positively to her work. "If only a distributor would just come to the theatre and see it," she laughed.

"It's always a happening when we show the film," she said. "I showed it in Los Angeles at the American Film Institute in a very commercial theatre at 7 p.m. At 11 p.m., there were 40 of us outside the theatre still talking about it. People want to know. There was an American boy crying because he recognised some of his friends. He felt guilty that he was here and they were still stuck over there."

"I want to make fiction films again," Alexandra added. "I want to make crossover films with a message. (Black film-maker) Spike Lee did it. Why not a Vietnamese immigrant?" She says it will take her a year of touring with *From Hollywood To Hanoi* and getting the sequel out before she can begin to think of going back to Hollywood.

"I've taken on two major projects," Alexandra said.



Tiana Alexandra's film *From Hollywood To Hanoi* tells a personal story but it also seeks to promote better understanding between the U.S. and Vietnam

"One is my foundation — the Indo-China Film Arts Foundation. The other is what I, as a woman film-maker, an American film-maker, can do to usher in the advent of a new medium... At the end of the day, if you want it, you've got to do it yourself" — World News Link.

The intimate Claude Monet

By Camille Hérisson

Claude Monet, Une Vie (Claude Monet, a Life) is the title of a book by Michel de Decker (published by Perrin) in which he groups together accounts by those who knew him and their descendants. It casts a new light on the destiny of the master of Impressionism.

PARIS — Claude-Oscar Monet was born of a family of grocers, in Paris, in 1840, the same year and the same month as Auguste Rodin. These two men were to dominate the world of art. The young boy had a talent for drawing and dreamt of making it his profession. But, in the Monet family, there was profound disdain for artists. So, at the age of 16, Claude fled the family home. In order to live, he started doing caricatures and gained a few customers.

At the age of 18, he met Eugène Boudin who was fond of the sea and the skies of Normandy and he thus became converted to painting. It was a mad passion. He put away his pencils and pens

and bought brushes and canvases, playing with colours and sunlight.

In Paris, Monet blended into the world of painters. He made friends with Bazille, Degas, Sisley, Morisot and Cézanne who acknowledged him. "Monet, the best of all of us!" He squabbled with his rival Manet. ("Who is this scallywag who so unworthily pastiches my paintings?".

grumbled the painter of *Olympia*). Monet also had frequent rows with Rodin whose character was as rough as his own.

But Monet's great friend, who was to be for him what La Boëtie was for Montaigne, was Georges Clémenceau. This obstinate

man from Vendée, who was a doctor, a journalist, an art critic and the director of newspapers, was to become the president of the Council of State in the gloomy days of 1914-18 and was to lead the country to victory. A deep friendship was to unite the two men till death.

Around the age of thirty, the painter experienced extreme poverty. With his future wife, Camille Doncieux, and their baby, Jean, he lived in an unheated garret. Old Courbet, who admired him, lent him a little money. Renoir, who was hardly better off than him, brought him some bread taken from his family table. When it was no longer possible to pay the rent, the three of them were thrown out. Monet is said to have then attempted to put an end to his life by throwing himself in the river. He met the art-lover, Durand-Ruel in time to arrange matters. The man who had revealed Corot and Delacroix bought his paintings.

Nature is my studio

It meant goodbye to hardship, at least for the time

being. Monet bought a boat, built a cabin on it and sailed on the Seine near Argenteuil, painting. By the age of 40, he had done more than 500 paintings. Michel de Decker describes him as just as easily being full of hope as being dejected and as generous as he could be selfish. Monet was fond of luxury. As soon as he had some money coming in, he would buy the finest wines, have the most beautiful suits made and buy Camille, whom he married in 1870, the most sumptuous dresses.

At that rate, the income from his paintings was quickly used up and the artist was always "broke". Debts piled up. In order to cope, he painted like a maniac, producing one canvas after another and working 11 to 13 hours a day, following the rhythm of the sun. He never closed the blinds so that the first rays of the sun would beckon to him. As soon as he got up, he would eat a grilled "andouillette" sausage, drink a glass of white wine and set to work at his easel. When the sun went down, he would dine and then go to bed. "Once the sun has gone,

what do you expect me to do?"

Maupassant, who, with Zola and Mirabeau, numbered among Monet's faithful friends, saw him at work. "When seeking impressions, he is no longer a painter, but a hunter", he wrote. "He has several paintings on the go at the same time, which he takes, in turn, according to the changes in the sky. He keeps a lookout for the sun or for shadows, cuts the falling cloud, with this brush".

In 1879, Camille died from cancer. Monet could not resist the terrible temptation to paint the face of the dead woman. He tried to justify his action to Clémenceau: "On her cheeks, I followed the changes in hue imposed by death. Shades of blue, of yellow and of grey".

In 1883, Monet moved to Giverny, on the edge of Normandy. He arranged the pink house with its green shutters which, today, receives millions of admirers from all over the world. He planted an ocean of flowers all around it: "The most beautiful garden in the universe".

the playwright, Sacha Guitry, *La Faute de l'Aérolithe* in France.



Claude Monet paints on his 80th birthday in Giverny

Adenoviruses — the keys to gene therapy

By Jean Chabrier

The basic element of tissue, the cell, was indeed discovered a long time ago. But, it took centuries to pierce its mysteries. The most advanced techniques have revealed its incredible complexity and the fantastic way in which cells are organised. Just like Ulysses, who had found the trick of using a wooden horse and thus enabling the Greeks to conquer the fortress, scientists have found a means of entering cells.

PARIS — In the last few months, mankind has witnessed an incredible development. Until now, medical treatment could only be applied globally to organs and systems. It was unable to deal with the roots of the disease, that is to say the cells which behaved in a deficient or abnormal way.

Considerable research has been carried out, over the last ten years, on viruses, which are chemical structures close to life, as it is defined.

An essential fact has been revealed: They only reproduce after entering the cell of which they will become parasites. This led to the idea of using them as vectors or missiles, just like a Trojan horse.

Today, the great possibilities of gene therapy are appearing. This can be briefly resumed as follows. It has been noted that numerous diseases resulted from the disappearance or innate (hereditary) or acquired (pathological) ineffectiveness

of one or several elements of the coding of the metabolic systems or of cell defence. So the lacking or faulty fragment of the genetic material (or "transgene") needed to be transferred into the chromosomes of the cells of the diseased tissues.

The choice of a virus to transport the gene gave rise to a lot of research. Teams of American scientists opted for retroviruses which reproduce at the same rate as the cells, but the limited interest of this choice is that there are many organs and much tissue consisting of quiescent cells which reproduce very little or even do not reproduce at all (liver, lungs, heart, muscles, the nervous system, etc.) and where retroviruses do not enter.

World specialists

As early as 1982, Michel Perricaudet, who is a cancer researcher at the French National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) and the G. Roussy Institute, had suggested using adenoviruses (which have an affinity for lymphoid tissue (glands, etc.)

ganglions, etc.), which are able to enter and bring the transgene right into the cells of quiescent tissues. It meant terrific progress, but the important scientists of the time did not believe in it. However, Mr. Perricaudet turned out to be right and now American scientists come to him and to the French teams working with adenoviruses in all areas of gene therapy, for advice.

The construction of a "recombinant" adenovirus takes place in two stages. First of all, its reproduction system is blocked so as to prevent its proliferation from killing the cell that it has infected. After that, the "transgene", which is the fragment of genetic material missing in the diseased tissues, is inserted.

Thus manipulated, the adenovirus enters the nucleus of the cells and stays there throughout their lifespan without being transmitted by the offspring cells: "The effect of the transgene lasts all the longer when cell renewal is slower," Mr. Perricaudet points out. "As it is

unable to reproduce itself, there is no risk of its transmitting a disease." He adds: "All kinds of genes likely to have a therapeutic effect can be inserted in it."

These three reasons are enough to explain why the best world specialists have adopted Mr. Perricaudet's discovery.

It goes without saying that, on this basis, terrific progress is being made in research and in discoveries. Publications are being churned out and, without being too optimistic, the results of experiments in vitro and in vivo are most conclusive. All this obviously represents years and years of work and it would take pages and pages to merely draw up.

For AIDS, which is a typical example of an acquired disease with the gradual disappearance of the body's defence systems, Professor Cherman, who, together with Professor Montagnier, both of them from the Pasteur Institute, discovered HIV, the virus responsible, solemnly declared that, if he were given sufficient staff and money, it would take him less than two years to find an effective vaccine against this dread disease. He added that they had to hurry as it is an extremely mutant virus — L'Actualité En France.



The introduction of adenoviruses in the middle of the cells opens the door to gene therapy

Cloth filters wipe out Guinea worm; other bugs succumbing

By Lauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — It took 200 years of immunisations to eradicate smallpox. Now doctors are poised to wipe out another scourge, this time armed with mere pieces of cloth to filter fleas from drinking water.

Doctors are confident that Guinea worm, a painful parasite that ravages developing countries, will disappear by 1995, becoming only the second disease ever eradicated.

Polio and measles may not be far behind, they predict. "Any pathogen that only infects people we can hope to

eliminate," said Dr. Brian Maby of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Africa, India and Pakistan still have about 1 million cases of Guinea worm combined, but a relatively simple eradication fight has cut hundreds of thousands of cases in just three years.

"People are doing it themselves, and it's quick," said Dr. Donald Hopkins of Global 2000, a private health network that former President Jimmy Carter formed here to fight Guinea worm and other diseases.

Guinea worm larvae live in water fleas that taint water in developing countries. When

people ingest the fleas, the larvae incubate for a year. Then a 2-to-3-foot (.6 to .9-metre) worm the width of a strand of spaghetti grows and bores its way out of the body directly through the skin.

"It's really grotesque," Dr. Hopkins said.

The worm is laden with new larvae that must be laid in water to live.

Two simple things are eradicating Guinea worm: Giving people in infected countries cloths to filter water fleas out of their drinking water, and teaching them to stay on dry land while a worm is emerging.

"It's an unneighbourly act to permit your worm to pol-

lute the community water supply," Dr. Hopkins said. "If she can't get to water, there's no way the cycle can continue."

"It's very exciting for these countries to get rid of this parasite themselves."

The Guinea worm story makes disease eradication seem easy — because of the low technology required and the backing of Mr. Carter, who has helped raise more than \$40 million. He's headed for eastern Africa in August to push the eradication effort.

But disease eradication is a difficult struggle marked by setbacks, doctors say. It took 200 years of vaccinations to

wipe out smallpox in the 1970s.

First, they can hope to eradicate only those diseases unique to people.

"We can deal with anything that doesn't have an animal reservoir or an insect reservoir," Dr. Maby said. "If there is an animal reservoir, the disease can always make the jump back to humans."

Secondly, diseases get a big boost from people themselves. Take measles: Intense vaccination campaigns in the 1970s slashed measles cases, but then people slacked off. In 1989, a three-year measles epidemic hit the United States, where thousands of unvaccinated people represented easy prey. Worldwide, measles kills 2.5 million people annually.

"We've tried to eradicate

worm or polio, it will take several years longer.

But doctors are pushing their eradication fights with a simple message: Eradication may seem expensive, but in

the long run it will save uncounted lives and billions of dollars in health care and lost productivity.

"We can't afford not to," said Dr. Hopkins.

Facts about Guinea worm

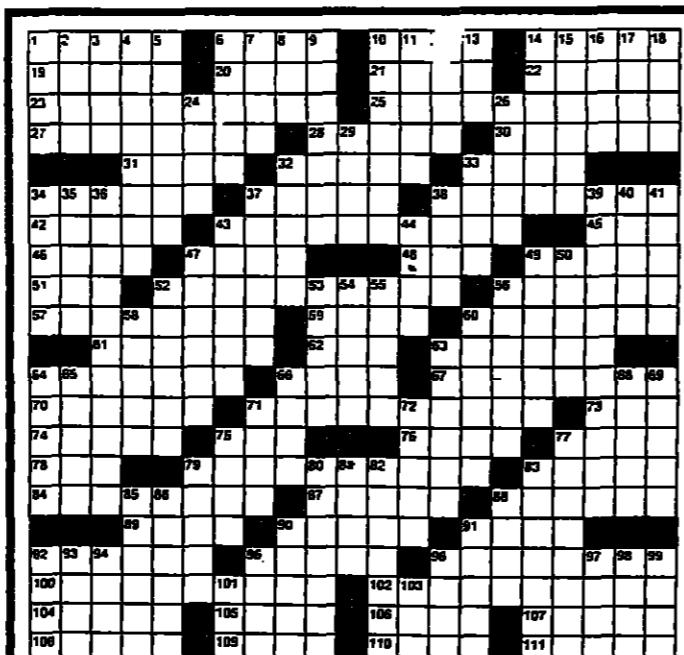
— Nigeria has the most cases — 200,000, down from 650,000 in 1989. Ghana has had the most rapid reduction, from 180,000 cases in 1989 to 33,000 last year.

— The parasite is transmitted in developing countries by drinking contaminated water. Boiling water, treating it chemically or digging clean wells are the best defence, but doctors are fighting it quickly and cheaply by providing cloth filters that screen water fleas from drinking water.

— The parasite grows into a 2-to-3-foot (.6-to-.9-metre) worm that bores its way out through skin, typically in the lower leg. The worm causes an intensely painful allergic reaction if it breaks off in the body before fully emerged, so people wind it around a stick as it slowly emerges.

— Guinea worm is one of the world's oldest diseases, dating back to ancient Greece and Egypt. Some historians say Moses was referring to Guinea worm when he discussed fiery serpents on the shore of the Red Sea.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Maybe it's possible for a genial little comma to palpably change the basic course of our history.
2. Aeronautics discussions concerning monetary matters cause many good intentions to go awry.
3. Delighted by their nonsense, winsome nonagenarian had some noisy boys to bide with a while.
4. Cub scouts' chief brought thief to grief.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ABLEB ABLE FLED SCRACPD UD BCD SHERUACHY: ABLD, ABCD CD BCD ABCYE.

—By Frank N. Stein

2. GLYD DLYFCE NUTWJCE YCNRMC: GETAC WRECKLOOS, PRO: TK SQL NLGGCZOS MCV JTOOCG, SQL'OO ZCACE KQEMTAC SLENCOK.

—By Eugene T. Maleka

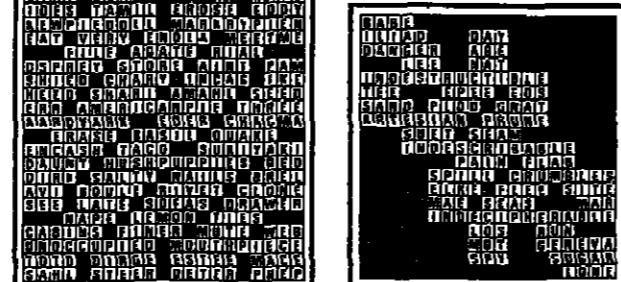
3. JWHT ASHY ECCK JCHTQH KEQQDQBQWH ESDB ASJDK JHCT YWKD JYWTQ.

—By Earl Ireland

4. INSILK YKIP NOL YOPIYGOR YIPPI HIPPY KE COHOMLI GINAHOR SLAYER.

—By Ed Huddleson

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Study: Cystic fibrosis drug improves quality of life

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The first new drug therapy for cystic fibrosis in 30 years has won unanimous approval from a U.S. Food and Drug Administration Advisory Committee.

The drug, Dornase Alfa, was found in a pivotal study to reduce infections and to improve the quality of life for stable cystic fibrosis patients over age 5.

The drug's manufacturer, Genentech Inc., reported that Dornase Alfa reduces lung infections by breaking up the thick mucus accumulation that is the major complication of cystic fibrosis.

Genentech, which conducted the study on more than 900 patients over a six month period, is applying for a license to market Dornase Alfa under the brand name Pulmozyme.

The committee's approval is not binding on the FDA but the agency usually follows its recommendations.

An FDA team that reviewed the Genentech study told the committee that Dornase Alfa appears to give significant short-term benefit for cystic fibrosis patients.

Fibrosis Foundation. He said the life expectancy of cystic fibrosis children was once about five years but that patients now live until about age 29 because of improved treatment techniques.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common lethal inherited disease among Caucasians. It affects about 30,000 Americans and usually first appears in early childhood. There is no cure.

The disease is caused when a baby inherits a flawed gene from each parent. The disorder causes the buildup of dense mucus in the walls of the breathing airway and in the digestive tract. The clogged airways lead to frequent bacterial infections and eventual damage to lung tissue.

Doctors have learned to control the intestinal symptoms with medication, and respiratory failure is now the most common cause of death for cystic fibrosis patients.

"Every child with cystic fibrosis faces a premature death sentence and each faces a quality of life that we would consider unacceptable," said Robert J. Beall, executive vice president for medical affairs of the Cystic

Fibrosis Foundation.

Dornase Alfa is an enzyme created through genetic engineering by Genentech. The drug acts by dissolving the tangle of mucus that accumulates in the lungs of patients with chronic lung disease.

Dornase Alfa is inhaled through a device that converts the liquid into an atomized spray.

The study showed that the drug is able to thin and then liquefy the thick mucus that builds up in the airways of cystic fibrosis patients. Once the mucus is thinned it can be coughed up.

Cystic fibrosis patients now routinely undergo sessions of thumping on their backs in an effort to mechanically loosen the mucus.

clogs of mucus. Once the material is out, the lungs are less likely to harbour bacteria that can lead to infections.

The study showed that the risk of infection was reduced by 37 per cent in patients receiving twice-daily doses of Dornase Alfa and by 28 per cent among patients receiving one dose daily.

The study showed a slight reduction in the number of hospital stays by patients taking the drug, a reduction in the need for antibiotics and a reduction in the days spent in bed with an illness.

The study found that the most serious side effect of the drug was a hoarseness that eventually went away. Some patients also reported a rash and a slight swelling of the face.

Some patients in the study developed antibodies against Dornase Alfa, which is a type of enzyme. The eventual effect of these antibodies is uncertain, said Dr. Sevka.

Genentech said it is uncertain when the drug will be available, because its manufacturing facilities are still being built and those facilities must be approved by the FDA.

Published reports said the drug may cost \$10,000 a year per patient, but Greg Baird, a vice president of Genentech, could not confirm the figures.

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLES

(I) HOLE WORDS
The missing word in each case is CAM.

(II) The number is "16". Check again!

(III) 45 seconds. There are four pauses between the first and the fifth stroke, therefore each pause must be of 5 seconds. There are nine pauses between the first and the tenth stroke.

WHO: World risks new diseases from rats

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — Humanity must prepare for a whole new group of rat-borne diseases, a World Health Organisation (WHO) expert said.

"People have become complacent about rat and rodent associated diseases," Dr. James Leduc told the international congress of Virology in Glasgow.

He cited a newly emerged

disease, which at first affected mostly Navajo Indians and which has baffled doctors in the southwestern United States, as the type of illness that could lie in store.

Dr. Leduc said killing rats in an effort to eradicate these diseases could lead to outbreaks of bubonic plague — the fearsome black death that ravaged Europe.

The summer when homicide went public

By Mitchell Landsberg
The Associated Press

TWO PEOPLE are killed at a McDonald's and the gunman commits suicide. A woman is shot and killed in a movie theatre. Attackers stalk victims in courthouses, offices, hospitals.

This is the summer that murder went public in America.

"There are more and more killings in schools, restaurants, places of business," observed James Alan Fox, dean of the School of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston. "There are relatively few places that are immune."

It may be impossible to say why. It is, in fact, impossible to prove there's been any increase in these crimes at all. No reliable statistics exist concerning the settings in which crimes occur.

It seems possible there is no real trend — that the events this summer are part of a coincidental string of unrelated crimes, or a particularly bad phase in which one psychotic killer encourages another.

But others do think there probably has been an increase in killings in such public venues, and that it may be a sign of some deeper problem in American society.

Murray Straus, a sociologist at the University of New Hampshire, suggests any such increase might be explained by something as simple as the proliferation of multiple-shot weapons. Or, he said, it may be something as complex as "social disorganization," a wholesale shredding of the societal fabric.

"Part of it may be that more people are in a situation of lacking ties to kin, family, neighbourhood, and therefore more vulnerable to going off the deep end," Mr. Straus said.

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A policeman helps a couple flee an attack in Topeka, Kan. on Aug. 5, 1993

It is at least the fourth hospital shooting in southern California in the last nine months.

— Aug. 12: In Burlingame, Calif., a man bursts into a real estate office and shoots a real estate broker and wounds another before attempting suicide. Police say the suspect has just been evicted from his home.

Mr. Fox, the northeastern criminologist, sees a deepening societal rage that is bursting out in more and more public ways.

"More and more people are angry, frustrated. Things aren't going their way... and they want to get even," he said.

And violence can beget violence. Both Mr. Fox and Mr. O'Kane said highly publicized crimes can encourage other crimes.

"It kind of puts a bug in their bonnet," Mr. O'Kane said.

The videotape made by the McDonald's killer included remarks expressing admiration for serial killers Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer.

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Cambodia widens offensive against Khmer

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The Cambodian army widened its offensive against the Khmer Rouge in the northwest Wednesday and captured part of the most strategic target of the civil war — the guerrilla's "second headquarters" near the Thai border.

Phum Chat, the main logistics and supply base for the Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces in the northwest region, was attacked and partially occupied by government forces in a pre-dawn raid that included the Khmer Rouge's former partners in the civil war. U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), which previously had acted as part of the front for the Khmer Rouge to receive foreign aid during the 13-year civil war, participated in the attack against their old allies, he said.

The government is in the middle of a large-scale offensive to drive the guerrillas back to the Thai border and put a stranglehold on their supply lines to the centre of the country.

"The Khmer Rouge are not like before, they are very weak," a Cambodian general told AFP. "When we send in just a small group of soldiers, they just run away and don't fight heavily," he said, calling the offensive a "huge success."

He said Cambodian troops had the capability to capture the Khmer Rouge's primary head-

quarters in western Pailin "tomorrow," but had no immediate plans to extend the offensive there.

Fighting in Phum Chat continued into the morning, but the weapons used and casualty figures were not immediately known.

Unconfirmed reports cite several casualties on the part of the NADK, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, or Khmer Rouge, Mr. Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge's second-in-command, Leng Sary, has been spotted in Phum Chat, according to U.N. officials interviews there in May, and Cambodian sources said the notorious commander General Ta Mok has been seen in the area.

It was unclear if either of these two men were targets of the attack.

The town, on the edge of the border with Thailand, is divided by a reservoir, with a village on one side and a Khmer Rouge military logistics base and munitions storage area on the other.

Mr. Falt said it was unclear which part of Phum Chat, either the munitions stores or the village, had been occupied by the Cambodian army.

Meanwhile, U.N. military observers northwest Siem Reap — where the offensive started on Aug. 11 — said the Cambodian forces had captured the mountain of Kulen in fighting with the

Khmer Rouge. Kulen offers a vantage point for the whole of eastern Siem Reap province.

"I think their goal is to cut off the NADK supply network," one U.N. observer in the province said.

Cutting off the supply network in that district, called Svay Leu, would choke off guerrilla forces in Kompong Thom and eastern Kompong Cham.

"Most of the NADK, because they're guerrillas, have fallen back," he said. "Their intention is not to hold ground."

In fighting in Kompong Thom on Aug. 8, the Cambodian army pushed back the guerrillas at least 50 kilometres (30 miles) to recapture lost territory.

Heavy fighting there reportedly displaced 5,000 people, a diplomatic source said.

The weakened Khmer Rouge requested urgent talks with the Cambodian government Tuesday and agreed to make concessions, but the government said it is too busy to meet with them.

"The Khmer Rouge told me that they would like to join the Cambodian united army with no pre-conditions," Deputy Information Minister Ek Sereyvath said.

However, he said, the talks requested by the faction could not be held on Aug. 22 to 25, because the Cambodian co-premiers were scheduled to make an official visit to Vietnam.

Armenian military officials in the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh said late Tuesday that their troops had taken control of the main road between Fizuli and Dzhebrail, further southwest, while leaving an open corridor east of Fizuli for those who want to flee the region toward eastern Azerbaijan.

Seiran Oganian, the Armenian military chief of staff in Nagorno-Karabakh, confirmed that his forces "control all the heights around (Fizuli), which is practically surrounded," but he denied that his forces had entered the city.

The offensive, which follows recent Armenian gains west and north of Nagorno-Karabakh, was apparently aimed at creating a security belt around the enclave.

The offensive has drawn strong condemnation from neighbouring Turkey and Iran, both strong Azerbaijan allies, while the United Nations had already called on the Armenian forces to end operations inside Azerbaijan.

In Geneva, Mr. Izetbegovic met the Bosnian Croat leader Boban Wednesday morning to discuss which republics would get disputed areas under a proposed three-part Bosnian union.

Bosnian faction leaders wrestled over a plan to turn Sarajevo into a U.N.-run city, but President Izetbegovic demanded Serbs first end a 16-month siege of the capital.

In what diplomats said could mark progress amid general gloom, officials said the presidents of Croatia and Serbia, Franjo Tudjman and Slobodan Milosevic, had been asked to the Geneva talks on dividing Bosnia as questioning the value of the air strikes, which were proposed by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"What does President Clinton think he is up to? Air power won't defeat the Serbs," the newspaper quoted Gen. Hayes as saying.

Gen. Briquet was reported to have spoken dismissively of air strikes, saying: "It was a NATO warning, so it's a problem for NATO... but NATO is not the U.N."

The U.S. envoy to the U.N. Madeline Albright called the reported remarks "unconscionable."

Belfast city centre hit by car bomb

BELFAST (Agencies) — An overnight car bomb explosion in the city centre here wrecked a snack bar and smashed shop windows, Northern Ireland Police said Wednesday.

Four people cleaning restaurants in the area had to be treated for shock. The car had been stolen hours earlier in a Catholic district of West Belfast.

The explosion gutted a snack bar and damaged several stores and restaurants as well as the headquarters for the powerful Orange Order, a Masonic-like grouping of Protestant clubs, authorities said.

They said the bomb weighed about 70 kilograms (154 pounds).

A "grossly inadequate" warning was telephoned just minutes before the blast, police said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but investigators said they suspect the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Restaurant owner Judith Deibert said: "I suppose we ought to be relieved it wasn't in the middle of the day or there could have been people killed. Business is tough enough and this is an awful kick in the teeth. But we will open again."

But Mr. Gummer countered: "The whole issue is about whales. I think in an election campaign he recognises how isolated Norway is on the subject of whales. The Norwegian environment minister clearly feels very exposed and isolated," on the issue, he said.

Mr. Berntsen confirmed the remarks to Norway's national news agency (NTB) Tuesday. The Norwegian for "shitbag" is "drittsk," and is widely used in Norway.

"I could probably have said the same using somewhat different words, but I usually say things directly so that people understand what I mean," Mr. Berntsen told NTB.

Mr. Gummer has criticised Norway in the past for its decision to resume commercial whaling in 1993 despite an international moratorium.

Mr. Berntsen later told Norway's national television NRK that his choice of words had not been completely ideal.

"The expression was not appropriate for a minister," Mr. Berntsen said.

National radio also played a tape from the election rally on Monday night where Mr. Berntsen's statement about Mr. Gummer caused roars of laughter from the audience.

Azeris bomb town in Armenia, kill 7

YEREVAN (AFP) — Two Azerbaijani aircraft Wednesday bombed the southeastern Armenian town of Gap, killing seven people and injuring about 30, the Armenian News Agency, Snark, reported.

The agency, quoting an Armenian Defence Ministry statement, said two Sukhoi-25 fighter-bombers carried out the attack around 7:00 a.m. (0300 GMT), in apparent retaliation for a continuing Armenian offensive on the strategic Azeri town of Fizuli, southwest of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Gap is an industrial town located just inside the Armenian border about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian-majority enclave which has been fighting for independence from Azerbaijan since 1988 in a war that has left some 10,000 dead.

The reported bombing came as Armenian forces, defying international condemnation, pursued their offensive against Fizuli, leaving hundreds of casualties and tens of thousands of refugees fleeing the region, according to Azeri authorities.

Armenian military officials in the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh said late Tuesday that their troops had taken control of the main road between Fizuli and Dzhebrail, further southwest, while leaving an open corridor east of Fizuli for those who want to flee the region toward eastern Azerbaijan.

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U.N.: Some Serbs stay on Igman

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers said Wednesday that some Bosnian Serb forces were still on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo despite a pledge to withdraw, but said they posed no threat to the city.

The main body of Serb forces withdrew as promised last weekend, but a few remained. United Nations military spokesman Barry Frewer told a news briefing in Sarajevo.

Meanwhile, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Peter Kessler said conditions for people living in Bosnia's second city Mostar in the southwest were probably worse than those of people in Sarajevo. Fighting around Mostar was reported Tuesday.

Mr. Frewer could not say how many Serb soldiers were left on Igman, but said they are "not a threat to anybody."

The U.N. said Monday that the last of the Bosnian Serb units had left Igman and Mount Bljesnica, which towers behind it, two days after an international deadline for their withdrawal passed Saturday.

The Serbs had captured the mountains from Muslim-led government forces two weeks earlier, prompting Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic to walk out of Geneva peace talks.

The peace talks re-opened in Switzerland Monday after the bulk of Bosnian Serb troops had handed over the mountains to U.N. peacekeeping forces.

Fourteen people were wounded in a mortar attack on Sarajevo Tuesday night, underlining the city's vulnerability.

UNHCR spokesman Kessler said the U.N. has been unable since June to get into Mostar, where 25,000 to 35,000 Muslims'

are trapped in the old town to the east of the Neretva River.

"The situation in Mostar is probably worse than that in Sarajevo or Srebrenica to the east," Mr. Kessler said.

"There are tens of thousands of people known to be living in the sheltered out quarter in the east side of the town."

Muslim-controlled Bosnian radio said Tuesday that Croatian Air Force jets had bombed the city's eastern quarter.

Croatian Radio said the fiercest fighting had moved Tuesday night to the south of the city, where Muslims had tried to recapture positions lost to Croatian forces in the last few days. But the Croats had repelled the attacks, it said.

U.N. officials in Bosnia came under fire from the United States and Bosnia's Muslim ambassador to the U.N. reported remarks about the potential use of air power.

The U.N. troop commander, Lieutenant-General Francis Briquet, and his chief of staff Brigadier Vere Hayes were quoted by the New York Times as questioning the value of the air strikes, which were proposed by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"What does President Clinton think he is up to? Air power won't defeat the Serbs," the newspaper quoted Gen. Hayes as saying.

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U.K. minister plays down jibe by Norway counterpart

LONDON (Agencies) — British Environment Minister John Gummer dismissed Tuesday a forthright attack by his Norwegian counterpart, who described him as "the biggest shitbag I've ever known."

Thorbjørn Berntsen made his comments Monday during an election campaign debate in Grimstad, 180 kilometres (110 miles) southwest of Oslo, referring to talk he had with Mr. Gummer in New York earlier in the year.

But Mr. Gummer dismissed Mr. Berntsen's outburst, saying: "I don't think the comments of people in an election campaign, when they aren't willing to defend the world's largest sea mammal, are worth making much about."

"I am sorry he felt the need to speak like this," he said, adding: "I am not going to reply to people who use this sort of language."

Mr. Berntsen, whose election rally comments were printed in the Agderposten local newspaper, said he made his judgement of Mr. Gummer after the New York talk on the environment.

"I informed him of all the problems that acid rain is creating for Norway, and pointed out that most of this acid rain comes from dumping in England. During these talks, he was insolent towards Norway and the Norwegian government," he said.

But Mr. Gummer countered: "The whole issue is about whales. I think in an election campaign he recognises how isolated Norway is on the subject of whales. The Norwegian environment minister clearly feels very exposed and isolated," on the issue, he said.

Mr. Berntsen confirmed the remarks to Norway's national news agency (NTB) Tuesday. The Norwegian for "shitbag" is "drittsk," and is widely used in Norway.

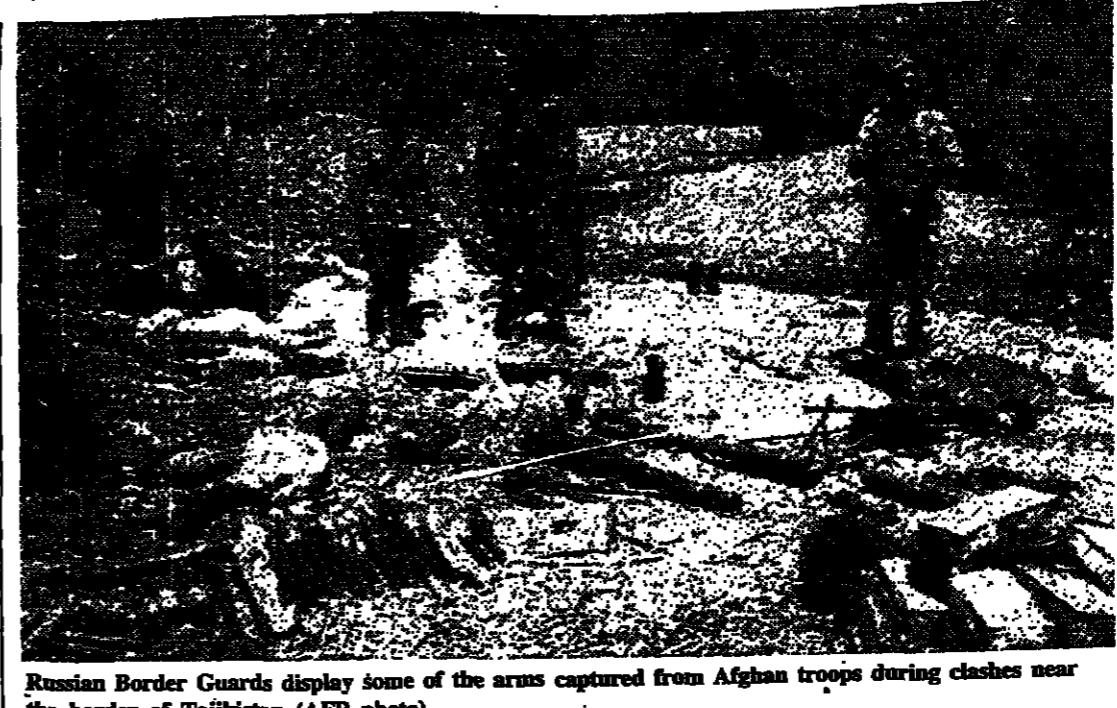
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"The expression was not appropriate for a minister," Mr. Berntsen said.

National radio also played a tape from the election rally on Monday night where Mr. Berntsen's statement about Mr. Gummer caused roars of laughter from the audience.



Russian Border Guards display some of the arms captured from Afghan troops during clashes near the border of Tajikistan (AFP photo)

Tajik troops seize 7 rebel held villages

DAST-I-SHER, Tajikistan (R) — Government forces in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan have seized seven southern villages from Islamic rebels after months of sporadic fighting, securing a strategically crucial border area.

Foreign diplomats said Wednesday that the capture of what was one of the last rebel strongholds had made the government less vulnerable to attacks.

Dast-i-Sher is one of the villages cleared of rebels over the last two weeks in the Darvaz area of southern Tajikistan, on the border with Afghanistan.

Journalists who visited the settlement Monday were the first to independently confirm earlier government claims that the villages had been wrested from rebel hands.

Darvaz, which straddles the only road from the south to the Tajik capital Dushanbe, is a key

to the security of the border.

"Darvaz is seen as the most vulnerable gateway for rebel attacks on Tajik territory from Afghanistan," said one foreign diplomat.

Thousands were killed in a near civil war last year before ex-Communist forces prevailed over a loose coalition of self-styled Democrats and Islamists.

Many of the Islamists fled to Afghanistan.

FBI on the trail of bra thieves

NEW YORK (AP) — New York, already known for its sordid and assorted crime, can now add yet another: The theft of 46,800 bras from Kennedy International Airport. According to court documents filed in U.S. district court in Brooklyn, the underwear heist occurred last August at the Queens facility, where it arrived in late July 1992. Hijackers stashed a truck driver and made off with 390 cartons filled with bras, the papers said. The lingerie from the Philippines was shipped for sale exclusively at K-Mart, the papers said. It instead turned up in stores throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx, where FBI agents purchased the stolen bras from the locations, the papers said. A search warrant was subsequently issued and authorities seized nearly 2,700 of the stolen bras from the locations, the papers said. FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette declined to comment on the probe, which has so far produced no arrests.

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Sports

Agassi on comeback trail



NEW HAVEN (Agencies) — Andre Agassi made quick work of Kelly Evernden 6-0, 6-3 Tuesday in the first round of the Volvo International, perhaps a little too quickly in the opinion of new coach Pancho Segura.

Segura would have preferred Agassi take advantage of the easy match to work on parts of his game like the serve and volley. Instead Agassi battered Evernden into submission from the baseline winning the first eight games in a match that lasted only 46 minutes — plus a brief 16-minute rain delay.

"I wanted him to come in behind the ball more and serve and volley. Today he did that only once. He needs to do more of that," Segura said.

Agassi, who fell from the top 20 in the international rankings for the first time in five years because of a wrist injury in the spring, agreed it would have been a good match to work on his game if showers weren't forecast. "Any time you have threatening weather like this you just want to get the match over with," Agassi said. "In a match like this, you want to work on some things, do different things, but these early rounds the bottom line is you want to get by them."

Only five matches were completed Monday and Tuesday's play was delayed a half-hour by rain, although tournament officials hoped to get in a full schedule.

Five seeded players were beaten Tuesday: No. 9 Arnaud Boetsch, No. 12 Marc Goettler, No. 14 Richard Fromberg, No. 15 Stennerink and No. 16 Carl-Uwe Steeb, aside from No. 10 Agassi, the only seeded players to advance were No. 11 Marc Rosset and No. 13 Jonas Svensson.

Segura, hired last month when Agassi's longtime coach, Nick Bollettieri, decided it was time for Agassi to move on, said he's been working with Agassi in and winning the first-serve points.

The lesson seemed to work Tuesday as Agassi got in 78 per cent of his first serves, winning 83 per cent of those points. By comparison, Evernden got in only 51 per cent of his first serves and won only 50 per cent of those.

Segura said he's also trying to teach Agassi that he must concentrate more on important points and important sets and learn to do himself.

"I want him to play a second seed, tempo. Andre is a one-tempo kind of player — full speed. You just can't keep that consistently for a 3- or 4-hour set," he said. "I want to make that Andre Agassi, as long as he's coaching him, he senses the game and plays the big points and big sets."

Agassi, who says his wrist is at 100 per cent strength, said Segura is giving him a different view of tennis. Asked whether Agassi has the concentration to become No. 1, Segura hesitated.

"That is the question. I'm be-

ginning to sense at this stage of the game it's too hard to answer. Hopefully, the answer is yes."

Graf wins mediocre performance at Canadian Open

In Toronto, Steffi Graf's debut at the \$750,000 Canadian Open was a performance she would rather forget but it was still good enough for a 7-5 6-3 win over Canadian Roslyn Nideffer Tuesday.

Fifth seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, sixth-seeded American Jennifer Capriati and unseeded Tracy Austin of the United States all won without losing a set in the 56-player event, which gives first-round byes to the top eight seeds.

The fourth-ranked Becker showed his lack of match play this summer. He double faulted 11 times and had 53 unforced errors in the two hour 41 minute match.

"I think I am at the stage where I need to play more matches," said Becker, who had played just two matches since his semifinal appearance at Wimbledon.

The second-ranked Courier never offered Nideffer an opportunity to break serve in the one 28 minute match.

"There was a lot of hard hitting and not a lot of finesse out there," said Courier. "I felt pretty good to get one under my belt."

Last week in Cincinnati, Courier went down to Australian Jason Stoltenberg in the second round and crumpled following that match.

Wilander, a two-time U.S. Open champion who has not played regularly on the circuit since the spring of 1983, performed more consistently than qualifier Andrea Keller of the United States and won their first-round match 7-5 6-2. She will meet 12th seed Nathalie Tauziat of France in the second round.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHNNAH HIRSCH

C 1992 Trove Media Services Inc.

SAVING NINE?

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ Q 9 2

♦ K 10 8

♦ 2

♦ A K 10 4 2

WEST EAST

J 7 6 ♦ A K 10 8 5 3

7 5 3

A J 9 8 4 ♦ Q 6 3

7 3 ♦ Q 9 6 5

SOUTH

♦ 4

♦ A Q 8 6 4 2

♦ K 10 7 5

♦ J 8

he bidding:

North East South West

♦ 1 ♦ 2 ♦ 2 ♦ 2 ♦

Pass

ace

Opening lead: Six of ♦

If you trust partner, you can come

with some spectacular defense.

With Swiss star Mats Wilander,

and Bjorn Borg, Falun, West, in

tion, at the World Bridge Olympiad.

After a competitive auction

North-South did well to bid all the

way up to five hearts. East-West can

come to 10 tricks at spades by

finishing for the queen of spades and

10 of diamonds. Given the lead of

the six of spades, would you rather play or defend five hearts?

At the table, declarer routinely played low from dummy and East followed by the three! After winning the first trick with the six of spades, West shifted to a trump and, when he regained the lead with a diamond, led another trump. Declarer could ruff two diamonds and set up a long club. West could not ruff, so he would have to cash his remaining low trump by ruffing a spade, and then has a high cross-trump after cashing the remaining club winner, scoring all nine trump tricks and two clubs.

However, that does not mean you

should have chosen to defend five hearts. If you elected to declare, you can get home by covering the six of spades at the first trick. East wins, but cannot ruff one of dummy's vital trumps.

Wilander said he is playing tennis for thrills these days and that no thrill would be bigger than returning to the U.S. Open, which he won in 1988 as one of his seven Grand Slam titles.

"I wouldn't put any more pressure on myself, but I think that I'm going to be more pushed up for the U.S. Open probably than any other match for me," said Wilander, who is still awaiting an answer. "I think it would be fun."

Murad Barakat joined his

teammates as player rather than

coach as Al Orthodoxi took the

lead 10-6 at the beginning of the

match. Al Ahli's Nasir Bushnaq

scored the first three-pointer of

the match and Al Ahli then took

the lead at 16-12. They continued

to score by converting crucial foul

shots to increase their lead to 20-14.

Meanwhile Bushnaq got his

third personal foul, which some-

what hindered his activity.

Al Orthodoxi scored by Mun-

tafer, Abul Tayyeb and Hilal

Barakat to tie the game in the

12th minute.

Murad Barakat and Abu

Barakat scored while Al Ahli's

sharpshooter Marwan Ma'touq

kept his team's lead ending the

first half 37-33 for Al Ahli.

Wilander wants U.S.

Open wild card

In New Haven, Mats Wilander,

who says he isn't coming back to

big-time tennis, nonetheless

hopes he can get a wild-card

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Crown Prince visits Zarqa camp, voices concern to ensure proper facilities

Prince Hassan urges coordinated approach to refugee services

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday providing educational and health services to citizens was one of Jordan's major concerns and targets within the framework of constructive cooperation between all those concerned.

During a visit to the city of Zarqa and the Zarqa refugee camp, Prince Hassan pointed to the grave political challenges Jordan is facing as a result of the waves of immigration which have swelled its population.

"The challenges faced by the people of Jordan in general, and the inhabitants of the refugee camps in particular, were clear and conspicuous, and the residents of refugee camps managed to obtain the various services in spite of the clashes between the needs of the cities and the camps," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan called for convening a meeting at the level of the local council of Zarqa Governorate to discuss all issues pertaining to refugee camps, especially in fields of education and health, and to present the recommendations of such a meeting to the United Nations Refugees and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees so as to address all problems facing refugees in these camps.

The Crown Prince also called for expanding services in the Zarqa region and for enlarging school building and expanding

health services in the area.

Specialists from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) were entrusted with studying the situation in the Zarqa refugee camp to study the prospect of expanding existing buildings and houses in the camp vertically, but the issue was rejected out of hand by the camp's residents and the city council for health reasons and the inavailability of adjacent lands to increase the area of the camp, Prince Hassan said.

Jordan, he said, has absorbed a lot of people who came to it through migration processes. He pointed to the economic discrepancies between Jordan and Israel in terms of income per capita.

He stressed that unorganized work in the development process will render all the efforts useless, and underlined that cooperation was the only way to achieve the best results in offering services to citizens.

The director of UNRWA's area and several officials in the Zarqa camp thanked Prince Hassan for his inspection visit and said that the number of students in the camp is on the rise, compared to the number of teachers. They said the number of students in each classroom will rise to 60 in the current scholastic year as a result of reducing the number of teachers "despite the fact that UNRWA already had around 80 vacancies for teachers."

They also complained that the

health clinics in the camp work still 2 p.m., compelling the sick to visit hospitals and clinics outside the camp in the latter parts of the day.

They called for developing health services in the camp, noting that some buildings could serve that purpose. They also demanded that an emergency clinic be set up at the camp, and reiterated calls for establishing vertical buildings in the camp in view of expanding families, stressing that a solution to this problem be reached with the Department of Palestinian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry and UNRWA.

Usually, residents of refugee camps are not allowed to build a second floor for their houses.

They expressed their pride in the Hashemite leadership and in the stands of His Majesty King Hussein, and support for the King's decision to amend the Election Law with the aim of giving each citizen one vote.

Prince Hassan also visited health clinics in the camp and inspected their conditions and urged improvement in their work. He also inspected several areas in the camp and was briefed by residents on their conditions and needs.

Prince Hassan, who was accompanied by several officials, concluded his tour by visiting Kherbet Al Samra area, where he was familiarized with the situation there and issued directives on several issues.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visits a United Nations Relief and Works Agency facility in Zarqa (Petra photo)

Egyptian preacher may accept deportation

NEW YORK (R) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric who has been fighting a deportation order, may be willing to leave the United States voluntarily if he can go to Afghanistan, his lawyer said on Wednesday.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 55, has ties to many of those charged in the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre and an alleged plot to blow up the United Nations and other New York landmarks.

The blind cleric, the spiritual leader for Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt, openly calls for the murder of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak from his self-imposed exile in New Jersey.

He has denied any involvement in either of the New York cases.

He has been fighting a deportation order and suffered a setback on Monday when a federal judge denied his appeal against the action by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

But the cleric's lawyer, Barbara Nelson, told reporters outside the building that houses the ins that she had approached federal authorities about allowing the cleric to go to Afghanistan.

"We expect her majesty to comply with her own law," Harvey Marshall, a Westminster Council representative said Tuesday. Buckingham Palace, for its part, quickly announced that come this Sunday the soap, ties and tea cups would be off the shelves. Up to 6,000 people daily visit the queen's residence, which was opened to the public to finance the restoration of Windsor Castle, damaged by a fire last November.

COLUMN

Queen asked to abide by Sunday law

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II has been asked to comply with a law banning Sunday trade after inspectors found that Buckingham Palace souvenir shops were selling soap — with the queen's face on it — silk ties and tea cups on that day. The breach was discovered after a man visiting the palace, which opened to the public on Aug. 1, filed a complaint. Civilian inspectors from the Westminster City Council, in whose jurisdiction the palace lies, then stopped the shops, incognito, last Sunday. A 1950 British law, openly flaunted by thousands of merchants here, lists only some items such as postcards and travel guides that may be sold Sundays in tourist areas. "We expect her majesty to comply with her own law," Harvey Marshall, a Westminster Council representative said Tuesday. Buckingham Palace, for its part, quickly announced that come this Sunday the soap, ties and tea cups would be off the shelves. Up to 6,000 people daily visit the queen's residence, which was opened to the public to finance the restoration of Windsor Castle, damaged by a fire last November.

Collin Powell to write memoirs

NEW YORK (R) — General Colin Powell, the outgoing chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff, has a new career in the offing: Author. Gen. Powell, who is to retire in late September, signed up with Random House to write memoirs of a 35-year-long army career that saw him become the first black to head the Joint Chiefs and become a major planner of the U.S.-led allied effort to push Iraq out of Kuwait. A Random House spokeswoman declined to comment on how much Gen. Powell would be paid but said the company purchased the worldwide rights to his memoirs in bidding against other publishers. Publication of the as-yet untitled work is due for 1995.

2 compensated by U.K. police after night raid

NEW YORK (R) — Two Britons received £6,000 (\$9,000) compensation each after they were arrested by mistake and strip-searched by police investigating an IRA bombing in London. Sarah Cohen and Sean Hampson also received a full apology from London's Metropolitan Police following the night raid on their North London home in March.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman came from Sudan in 1990. But since he is an Egyptian citizen, authorities say he might be sent there; where he faces almost certain imprisonment.

The Egyptian government has asked the United States to extradite Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

Ms. Nelson said she is concerned for her client because of his poor health. He suffers from diabetes.

She said talks were underway and she was to see Sheikh Abdul Rahman later in the day. He is being held at a federal prison in Otisville, New York, 100 kilometres north of New York City.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman was ordered deported for allegedly lying on his immigration papers.

Ms. Nelson said that Sheikh Abdul Rahman would also be willing to go to two other countries, but she did not identify them.

The fundamentalist government of Sudan has said it would be willing to accept the cleric.

New Golan settlement started

(Continued from page 1)

"It's a camp for workers employed at Merom Golan," he said referring to a nearby village.

However, Labour Party Deputy Beni Temkin called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to "move off this new settlement as soon as possible before it affects the peace negotiations."

Avi Kelshtain, a spokesman for the Golan's 16,000 settlers, also denied the site was intended to become a new settlement, saying it would be a "work camp" to house labourers for local farms.

He said the settlers had police approval for the work.

Police last month stopped settlers from hauling five disguised prefabricated houses to start a new Golan settlement.

In the July attempt settlers used fruit crates to camouflage the prefabricated houses. Drivers carried fraudulent documents saying the trucks' cargo was fruit.

Witnesses said Wednesday the mobile homes have been hooked up to electricity and water. Settlers also fixed placards declaring their resistance to government policy of withdrawal from at least part of the Golan Heights in a peace agreement with Syria.

The Heights, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war, are home to some 18,000 Syrians, mostly Druze Arabs.

Right-wing Israelis have been waging a campaign against possible withdrawal from the Golan. Activities have peppered the countryside with huge posters that challenge Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's authority to make "concessions."

Lebanon, Syria settle differences over south

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese leaders have won over Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's objections to the recent Lebanese army deployment in the south, a U.S. source said Wednesday.

In return, however, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri pledged that any future strategic deals with the United States and Israel would first get approval from Damascus, the sources said, demanding strict anonymity.

The agreement, made at a Lebanese-Syrian summit Monday in Damascus, was further evidence that the army deployment was part of the cease-fire agreement brokered by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to end Israel's bombardment of southern Lebanon.

Syria, the undisputed power broker in the country, opposed the army's move into areas used by Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas as a staging ground for attacks on Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

On Aug. 9, more than 500 government troops moved into the sectors of south Lebanon patrolled by United Nations peacekeeping troops since 1978.

Mr. Hariri stressed that the Lebanese army's main task was to maintain security and not to disarm Hezbollah and other groups in which nearly 150 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

The deployment followed Israel's week-long military blitz against Hezbollah and other groups in which nearly 150 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

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Court rejects Demjanjuk retrial, but petition delays deportation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's supreme court moved a step closer to freeing John Demjanjuk on Wednesday by rejecting a new trial based primarily on documents indicating he worked at Sobibor camp and served in a special unit organized to kill Jews.

The court said in its 3-0 decision that it was unwilling to overturn a recommendation by Attorney General Yosef Harish against a new trial. Mr. Harish argued it might expose Mr. Demjanjuk to double jeopardy and that the available evidence would not be enough for conviction.

The petitioners, including holocaust survivors and Nazi hunters, immediately asked Chief Justice Meir Shamgar to allow the full five-judge supreme court to weigh their demand for a new war crimes trial.

Petitioners said they wanted to keep fighting.

"Every delay that forces him to sit in an Israeli jail for another day is positive if you consider that for every hour that the gas chambers were in operation at Sobibor hundreds of Jews were murdered," said Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Israel.

Despite the delay there appeared little chance for a new trial given the previous opposition of both the court and the prosecutor.

Justice Shlomo Levin said in his opinion Wednesday, "it would be very difficult to determine the defendant's activity in Sobibor. Not one of the survivors identified him there."

Judge Gabriel Bach dissented on several key issues although he voted with the other judges against a new trial. He said he did not consider as binding an earlier supreme court recommendation against a new trial and also wrote that there was enough public interest to justify seeking a

If Demjanjuk will be released, we will find a way to kill him in a short time," Mr. Marzel told reporters at the courthouse. Bach spokesman Tiran Pollak later said that "we will take matters into our own hands" if Mr. Demjanjuk was set free.

"Mr. Demjanjuk's relatives and supporters were also taken aback by the delay but said they doubted it would prevent Mr. Demjanjuk's eventual return to Ohio.

In Parma, Ohio, Mr. Demjanjuk's pastor, the Rev. John R. Nakonachny, said: "This is psychological torture."

Iran to submit ideas on Gulf island row

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Wednesday it had fresh proposals for resolving its row with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over three Gulf islands.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said he would relay the proposals through his Kuwaiti counterpart Ahmad Al Saadoun who had just arrived on an official visit to Iran.

"I will put forth our proposals (about the dispute) to him in our talks," Mr. Nateq-Nouri told Tehran Radio.

He described the dispute, which has strained Iran's relations with the Gulf neighbours for more than a year, as "very minor."

The radio quoted Mr. Saadoun as saying he hoped a meeting of foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh next month would help solve the dispute.

Foreign ministers of the GCC — grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — backed the UAE's total sovereignty" over the islands when they met in Riyadh in June.

I believe the gentlemen can help solve this very minor problem by taking into account the geographical realities of the region and take a decision which